

# Support Quality EDUCATION

QUARTERLY UPDATE FY2018

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 2



## Heritage Team

Registration for the 2018-19 Animal Services Heritage Team begins the first of June. Current junior high or high school students interested in joining should call 817-459-6269 or e-mail [Chris.Huff@ArlingtonTX.gov](mailto:Chris.Huff@ArlingtonTX.gov).

Congratulations to this year's winners pictured with AS Manager Chris Huff and Team Coordinator Dennis Finigan: (L) **Aaron Boone** 1<sup>st</sup>/\$500 (presented on Frederick Douglass); (M) **Zoee Ivory** 2<sup>nd</sup>/\$400 (presented on Positive Tupac); (R) **Heather van Waasbergen** 3<sup>rd</sup>/\$300 (presented on George Washington Carver); and **Asia Johnson** 4<sup>th</sup>/\$200 (presented on Jesse Owens).



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## 17th Annual Daddy Daughter Dance

There was a total of 1,400 attendees who came to the three sold-out dances, held February 9-10 at the Bob Duncan Center.

The "Tale as Old as Time" theme brought out princesses of all ages for a magical time filled with dancing, limo

rides, great food and other fun.

Blue Mesa Grill provided the delicious food, while Michael's Guitar Studio raffled off free guitar lessons.

Arlington Parks and Recreation thanks all guests, staff and volunteers who helped make the 17th Annual Daddy Daughter Dance a fun-filled, memorable occasion!



[www.arlingtontx.gov](http://www.arlingtontx.gov) | [www.myarlingtontx.com](http://www.myarlingtontx.com)

## City of Arlington Internship Program

In 2015, the City began its Internship Program, modeled after the successful Volunteer Program. It utilizes the relationships built with local schools in order to cultivate future talent for the City through partnerships with the schools, staff and students. Its success is built around allowing interns to find what best matches their career paths.

In FY18, the program has grown to include 11 departments, and the City tracks the progress through monitoring the number of interns per quarter and per department, the participating schools and the number of interns hired. Currently, these departments have interns:

- Information Technology has 2 (**Timothy Yabuki**/Arlington High School; **Maxwell Pham**/Seguin High School).
- Police has 2 (**Laura Hernandez**/Sam Houston State University; **Lauren LaMonica**/Arizona State University) and Police/Victim Services has 6 from UTA (**Brentleigh Gandy**; **Katy Pedone**; **Janelle Villafane**; **Faith Williams-Hoilett**; **Samantha Wallace**; **Daniela Coats**).

Other participating departments: City Attorney's Office, Community Development & Planning, Human Resources, Library, Management Resources, Municipal Court, Parks & Recreation, Public Works & Transportation, and Water Utilities.

# Highlights

## Former Mayor & Council Intern Corry McClellan

Now a Comprehensive Planner, Assistant Project Manager at Freese and Nichols in Austin, during his UT-Arlington grad school days back in 2014, Corry McClellan wanted to acquire as much real-world experience as possible and did so by becoming a Legislative Affairs and Special Projects intern in the Mayor & Council Office.

"This internship played a huge role in helping me get the job I have now," McClellan says. "It also helped me stand out because it gave me an inside understanding of the daily challenges and responsibilities facing cities, which helps me better serve my clients."

Coinciding with the 84th Texas Legislature, much of his work focused on monitoring proposed laws during the session to ensure the City's needs and interests were being advocated by the elected officials representing Arlington.

One of his favorite projects was building, populating and maintaining a database of all legislation being proposed at the Capitol with an impact on Arlington. He worked with staff to formulate the City's responses. Delving into policy research. Drafting letters and talking points. Attending meetings in Austin with Arlington's Representatives and Senators.

In the process, he found every element of city management linked, directly or indirectly, as cities worked tirelessly behind the scenes to meet the needs and values of the community.

His advice to other interns? "Take advantage of the opportunities, even if they're on the side. Sit in on meetings, ask questions, network. Constantly try to connect the dots between what you're doing at work and what you're learning in class," Corry says. "Make the most of it!"

2014 UT-Arlington Master of City and Regional Planning graduate Corry McClellan (far right)



# Reminder

## Arlington Police Youth Investment Programs

In recent years, national media stories have highlighted the lack of trust between the community, especially youth, and their police departments. The Arlington Police Department (APD) is one of 15 cities participating in the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing to serve as a model of community policing for other police departments. APD is committed to building positive relationships with youth and has increased programs to directly engage Arlington youth. (Number of participants in parentheses.)



### Police Explorer

Aimed at giving teens exposure to law enforcement careers through competition headed up by local law enforcement officers. (24)

### Police Activities League (PAL)

Crime-prevention program using recreational activities to create trust and understanding between youth and police officers. (117 avg past 3 yrs)

### Coach 5-0 Program

In partnership wth AISD, officers assist in coaching athletics and attend students' games. (apprx 60)

### Mentoring Arlington Youth

#### (MAY)

Program for middle school boys and girls. (24 mentors/18 mentees)

### Hometown Recruiting Program

Unique collaboration with AISD to provide learning opportunities for high school seniors interested in becoming Arlington Police Officers. (32 current AISD members/9 enrolled at UTA/11 enrolled at TCC)

*Arlington wants to be known as the American Dream City, and the kindness initiative will almost guarantee that the residents engage one another. We want a city where people are not afraid to help one another.*

**Norman B. Lyons, Jr.**

1944 - 2018

City of Arlington  
Community Relations Coordinator  
Mar. 7, 2016 - Jan. 26, 2018

To report an Act of Kindness, download the Ask Arlington App from the Apple or Android app stores. Once downloaded, open the app. Then tap on the "Submit a Request" button.

Turn on GPS to be included in the Community Map.



### Fire Academy Update

The AISD Firefighter/EMT Academy is a cooperative effort between the school, AFD and Tarrant County College. Designed to train and certify high school students in firefighting and emergency medical training, the Academy is housed at AISD's recently opened Dan Dipert Career and Technical Center. The facility is also home to 16 other dual credit programs offering skill-based training and college hours that can be applied to a specific degree program with certification.

The award-winning Academy accepts students from six high schools. Training is based on the Texas Commission on Fire Protection Basic Fire Suppression and Department of State Health Services curriculum.

To date, 10 AISD Academy graduates have been hired as Arlington fire fighters, while many others have been hired by other fire departments and ambulance companies.

## Black History Month Festival

The Arlington Public Library's 8th annual Black History Month Festival was attended by 750 people on February 26. Performances and presentations by local schools and art organizations provided an education experience for audience members of all ages. Ten community partners took part in the event, which promotes and celebrates the history and contributions of the African American community in Arlington.

The audience, which ranged in age from young children to senior citizens, enjoyed a mix of educational and cultural performances. TCC Southeast professor John Neal Phillips presented on William Sydney Pittman, the first practicing Black architect in Texas. Chris Huff, the City of Arlington's Animal Services



Manager, emceed the event and quizzed the audience on history questions between performances. The Animal Services Heritage Team was also on hand, with member **Aaron Boone** dressed as Frederick Douglass as he presented about this American history icon.

Black History Month Festival featured a variety of music and dance performances as well. Community partners such as the TCC SE Jass Combo, Ousley Junior High Primetime Steppers dance

team, and Household of Faith church choir sang, played live music, danced and more. Children enjoyed snacks and special craft activities.

"I love to get the community involved," says Librarian David Jackson, who planned Black History Month Festival. "I think it's good for the library to come together as a community to celebrate black history."

## Creative Writing Workshop for Teens

A special March 22 literary workshop offered by the Arlington Public Library (APL) featured best-selling local author Rachel Caine,



who has more than 45 published books. Ms. Caine's visit marked the final meeting of this workshop.

"We write because we want to be close to people and interact with them," said Caine, who asked if she could take part in the workshop after seeing a post about it from APL's social media accounts. "I always look forward to talking about writing and answering questions from readers and aspiring authors."

This writing series offered teens the chance to improve communication skills while expressing themselves creatively. First offered in October 2017, a second session began in January 2018. There were 25 teens who participated in APL's workshop, which was recognized by the

American Library Association with the 2018 Margaret A. Edwards Award for Best Literature Program for Teens. This award is given once a year to an outstanding library program that introduces literature to teens in an innovative way and develops lifelong reading habits. Librarian Morgan Brickey and Program Specialist Yuliana Aceves were recognized for designing and implementing the program.

"The program did something that only public libraries can," says Brickey. "It gave teens an opportunity to explore, in this case creatively write, what they wanted in a non-judgmental environment. Their writing was taken seriously."