

The Fielder Flash

Arlington Historical Society
September 2024 Newsletter



Our Venues

Fielder Museum | 1616 W. Abram Street
Knapp Heritage Park | 201 W. Front Street
Arlington Heritage Memorial Grounds | 600 W. Arkansas Lane

Contact Us

Email: fielderh@swbell.net
Website: www.arlingtontxhistory.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/FielderHouseMuseum
Phone: 817-460-4001

A note from the editor



This month's newsletter features a recap of our Knapp Heritage Park's 20th Anniversary, including many photos. What a great event! We hope you enjoyed it. We also have a quick recap of North Texas Giving Day, continued coverage of our popular fossil exhibit, and a look back at a special event from last year. Plus, something quite large and fancy has arrived at Fielder Museum—check out page 2 to see what it is. (And be sure to admire it in person the next time you visit!)

Jason S. Sullivan, 09-29-24

Newsletter Editor

JasonSSullivan@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

- **October 17**—Texas Authors Book Club, Fielder Museum, 6:30 PM
- **October 26**—Last day for "The Seashores of Ancient Arlington: A Rich Fossil Record" exhibit at Fielder Museum || **Extended due to popular demand!**
- **October 27**—AHS Board Meeting, Fielder Museum, 2:00 PM
- **November 11**—Vietnam Plaque presented at Veterans Park (more info coming soon)
- **November 21**—Texas Authors Book Club, Fielder Museum, 6:30 PM

Arlington Historical Society news

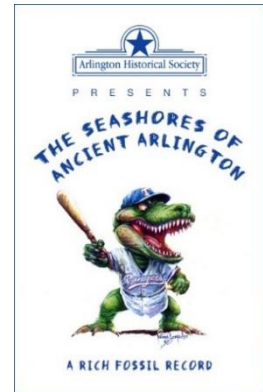
Thank you!

North Texas Giving Day

We appreciate your support on North Texas Giving Day! We received **\$1,664** in donations this year. These donations allow us to preserve Arlington's history by operating the Fielder Museum, Knapp Heritage Park, and the Arlington Heritage Memorial Grounds.

"The Seashores of Ancient Arlington: A Rich Fossil Record" continues

Our new exhibit at Fielder Museum features numerous fossil displays. It has been quite popular with kids and adults, and visitors have found the fossils a fascinating part of Arlington's history. We've had several groups visit and hope to host some school field trips soon. And good news—we've extended the exhibit through October due to popular demand! Come out and see it.



New display cases have arrived

We're excited about our new display cases at Fielder Museum! They're a huge upgrade from our previous ones. These new display cases are spacious, well-lit, and can be locked. They were a little tough to get inside, but we made it. We'd like to get a few more, as they enhance the experience for visitors and make our museum look more professional. Plus, they look sharper than a crocodile's tooth. (Which, by the way, you can see at our fossil exhibit!) Be sure to admire them the next time you visit.



Remember this event from a year ago?



September 27, 2023 | Festivities included a Dedication Ceremony for Arlington's newest Texas Historical Marker—the Arlington Texas & Pacific Depot and Platform—and the intertwined Recommitment Signing Ceremony between Arlington and our Sister City, Bad Königshofen, Germany.

It was a great night to celebrate Arlington's train depot and platform and their role in Arlington's Sister City relationship. Arlington and Bad Königshofen's relationship has thrived for over 70 years, and the recommitment ceremony included an official proclamation and signing by both mayors. The signatures, signed with a pen, symbolized the pen-pal letters that started the relationship many decades ago.

Knapp Heritage Park 20th Anniversary (September 27-28)

The Knapp Heritage Park's 20th Anniversary celebration was a success! We honored the Knapp family with a dinner on Friday night and then had our 20th anniversary celebration on Saturday. Both events had a great turnout, and we enjoyed the pleasant weather.

Dinner honoring the Knapp Family



The festivities began Friday evening when the Arlington Historical Society hosted a special dinner to honor the Knapp family, who have fond memories of the site. About 50 people attended. It was a perfect opportunity to show off the cabins and thank them for their support. We also appreciate Judge Roy English, his wife, Gayle, Arlington City Manager Trey Yelverton, and Arlington City Council Members Raul Gonzalez, Mauricio Galante, Rebecca Boxall, and Dr. Barbara Odom-Wesley for attending.

Guests enjoyed a BBQ feast prepared by former AHS President Steve Barnes. AHS Board Members brought homemade sides and desserts and helped serve the guests. Our resident artist, Keisha Smith, sketched artwork of the park's entrance and presented the Knapps with a framed sketch and prints. The family was grateful for the gesture and appreciated the artwork. They had a good time at the event and enjoyed the dinner.

Thanks to all who attended and to those who helped make it a success! Your support was greatly appreciated and made the event memorable.



Thanks to Sandra Greenwood for sharing her photos!

Check out our Facebook page for more photos.

20th Anniversary Celebration

We opened the gates on Saturday and invited the community to celebrate Knapp Heritage Park. We had a constant crowd throughout the day. Over 150 people stopped by, with many first-timers. Visitors could experience a slice of pioneer life in a rustic atmosphere—something quite unique in Downtown Arlington.

Activities included touring the cabins and schoolhouse, making cornhusk dolls, and making butter. We had an antique tractor and wood-turning demonstrations, where folks could take home hand-made wooden spinning tops as souvenirs. Keisha demonstrated her sketching skills, too. Folks also enjoyed bluegrass music from Riley Gilbreath and Bryan Hollifield and then acoustic guitar from Max Segura of Young Stars and Guitars. They were very talented young musicians!



Many folks posed for photos in and around the cabins, with the landscaped grounds and rustic green space providing a fun backdrop. We also had some UTA students volunteer, with some dressed in period attire, and a reporter stopped by from the UTA Shorthorn to cover the event for an upcoming article. Thanks to UTA Professor Cheryl Mitchell and students Zachary Chapman, Rachel Chen, Evelyn Franco-Calderon, Mollie Gann, Sean Helm, James Pham, and Kya Simpson for their help!



All the fun and excitement worked up an appetite—nachos, popcorn, and cold drinks were available. The Knapp cats were there and seemed to (mostly) enjoy visiting with the crowds.

A special thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the event a success, especially the AHS Board Members. It was a team effort. An extra special thank you to AHS President Nancy Tice for her continued hard work and dedication to making Knapp Heritage Park a success.



Knapp Heritage Park is a special place in Arlington, especially downtown, and it was quite rewarding to have such a large turnout. The 20th Anniversary was a significant milestone for us! We're proud of our venues. It's our duty (and privilege) to showcase them and help preserve, promote, and prolong Arlington's history.

Photos (from page 4):

- Wanda Marshall demonstrating cornhusk dolls
- Guests enjoying the wood-turning demonstration
- Antique tractor displayed
- Riley Gilbreath and Bryan Hollifield performing
- Max Segura performing



Photos (page 5):

- Cornhusk dolls
- Wood Turnings for sale from Wiggins Wood Turnings
- Bardin Barn with its new horse backdrop
- A rustic scene at Knapp
- Guests exploring the cabins
- Guests enjoying the wood-turning demonstration
- Knapp Heritage Park