

The Fielder Flash

Arlington Historical Society

October 2023 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

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A note from the editor

Better late than never, our October newsletter is here—and it's filled to the brim with events and exciting news! We have lots going on this time of year, and the holiday season is approaching fast. Be sure to check out page 4 for info about the inaugural **Holiday Tour of Homes**, which will surely be a popular event that you won't want to miss. And, a special thank you to Claudia Perkins, Brian Burns, and O.K. Carter for their input in this month's newsletter.

Jason S. Sullivan, 11-06-23

Newsletter Editor

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Upcoming Events

- **November 11**—"[Arlington's War Heroes: Celebrating Their Sacrifices & Achievements](#)" presented by Wanda Marshall, Downtown Arlington Library, 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM
- **November 16**—Texas Authors Book Club, Fielder Museum, 6:30 PM
- **November 19**—Outdoor Painting session, Knapp Heritage Park, 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM
- **November 26**—AHS Board Meeting, Fielder Museum, 2:30 PM (tentative date)
- **December 1-3**—Christmas Programs at Knapp Heritage Park; more info coming soon
- **December 10**—Holiday Tour of Homes, 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Arlington Historical Society news

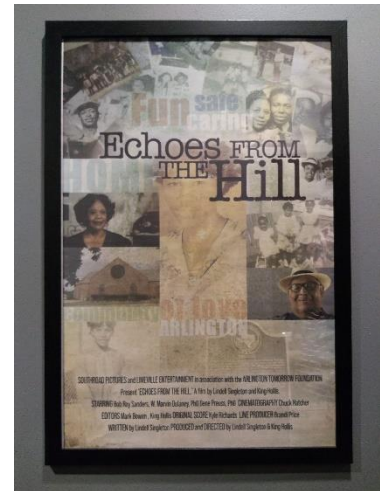
Decades of Fall at Fielder Museum

Visit Fielder Museum this fall for a few small exhibits. We'll be open Saturday, November 11 from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM for Veterans Day and a special exhibit, with military personnel getting in at no charge. Our Thanksgiving exhibit is also available to see now, and we'll conclude the year with a festive Christmas finale!

"Echoes From The Hill" available to watch at home

"Echoes From The Hill" is a documentary exploring life for Arlington's Black residents in a historic neighborhood called The Hill. The Arlington Historical Society contributed photos and additional resources to the documentary, while our Fielder Museum served as one of the filming locations. Additionally, AHS Executive Director Geraldine Mills is an associate producer of the documentary and appears on-screen in interviews.

The documentary premiered in June 2022, with a few screenings since then. From now until November 26, though, it is available to watch at home on [KERA's website](#). This is an engaging documentary about Arlington's history. Check it out!



AHS Members Enjoy Bird's Fort Presentation

On Sunday, October 29, AHS members gathered at the George W. Hawkes Downtown Library, where Richard Wray with the Viridian Planning & Development Committee provided a preview presentation on the proposed Bird's Fort Cultural Center. Mr. Wray summarized the history of the 111-acre Bird's Fort site and described Viridian's plans to recognize and preserve the site and its history.

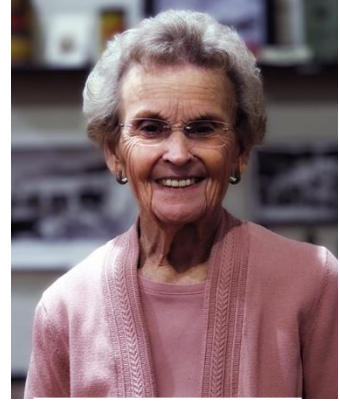
Mr. Wray's presentation included a series of slides showing conceptual drawings Viridian has commissioned from Jones Studio of Tempe, Arizona, the same architectural firm that helped design the Nature Center at River Legacy Parks. The cultural center, which is still a few years away from groundbreaking, will feature exhibits depicting the history of the site from the Texas Republic up to the present day, along with significant geological and paleontological discoveries that have been made at Viridian (the Arlington Archosaur Site).

AHS members who missed the presentation can view the proposed Bird's Fort Cultural Center design on the web at [this link](#).

Thank you to AHS Board Member Brian Burns for helping coordinate the event, and for the newsletter write-up!

Arlington's War Heroes: Celebrating Their Sacrifices & Achievements

Join the Arlington Historical Society for a special Veterans Day presentation by our own Wanda Marshall. The presentation will be **Saturday, November 11, from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM, at the George W. Hawkes Downtown Library in the [re]Brary Room A.**



Wanda Marshall

Even though Arlington was a small town in the 1940s, a large number of our youth went off to serve our country in the war effort. Wanda knew many of the soldiers personally and has devoted years to collecting and telling their stories. Fielder Museum's World War II room is always popular with visitors, and Wanda's presentation will surely be a poignant tribute to Arlington's hometown heroes.

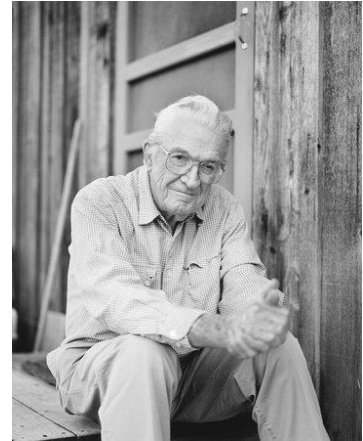
The event is free and open to the public. [Visit the Arlington Public Library's website for more info.](#)

Texas Authors Book Club continues in November

No doubt about it, a conflict between a Texas Rangers wild card playoff game and the Texas Author Book Club definitely cut down attendance at the club session last month, though about a dozen literary hard-core enthusiasts showed up anyway, including a couple of new attendees.

No such conflict exists for the next book club session, which will be 6:30 PM on November 16 at Fielder Museum (1616 W. Abram Street). The month's book is the John Graves' classic *Goodbye to a River*.

Book background: In November 1957, Graves with his small dog Watty—referred to as "The Passenger" in the book—completed a three-week canoe trip down part of the Brazos River (below Possum Kingdom Reservoir), a stretch of scenic waterway that Graves feared was about to be changed forever by planned construction of several dams. His narrative chronicle of the trip mixes history, philosophy, folklore, and meetings with people along the way. *Goodbye to a River* attracted national attention, winning the Carr Collins Award of the Texas Institute of Letters in 1961 and was nominated for a National Book Award.



John Graves

Please note: Books are not provided to attendees, but check the Arlington Public Library, [Amazon](#), or used bookstores for copies. Books may also be available as audiobooks or E-books as well.

Contact Fielder Museum or email texasauthorbookclub@gmail.com for more info. We hope to see you there!

Fall is a great time to visit Knapp Heritage Park

Cooler weather makes for a great time of year to visit Knapp Heritage Park in Downtown Arlington, typically open **Saturdays & Sundays from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.**



You may also be interested in a special event coming soon to the Knapp: “**Downtown Impressions: A Plein Air Experience,**” will be held on **November 19 from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM.** Artists from all skill levels are invited to gather and paint in the open-air setting. The outdoor experience is said to awaken the senses and unlock creativity; professional artists and painters will lead the sessions. Seating is limited; [visit this link](#) to reserve your spot and to purchase an inexpensive paint kit. The event is part of the Downtown Outdoors series presented by Downtown Arlington.

In other Knapp news, the cabins will soon have new roofs, as we’re working on renovations to help keep the cabins looking their best for years to come. It’s an exciting time for our cabins!

Holiday Tour of Homes is Sunday, December 10

We’ve been mentioning this event for a few months now, and we’re excited that it’s getting so close! The inaugural *Diane Cravens Holiday Tour of Homes* will be held on **Sunday, December 10th.**



Event details:

- **Date:** Sunday, December 10
- **Time:** 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM
- **Cost:** \$25 each for regular tickets; \$45 each for VIP tickets. Limited number of VIP tickets are available and include a private reception at Fielder Museum from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM, with dignitaries, mimosas, commemorative glassware, and light refreshments. Tickets are available online now at the link below and will soon be available at Fielder Museum. Tour maps with addresses will be available at Fielder Museum after December 4th. [Visit this link to purchase tickets!](#)
- **Locations:**
 - Fielder Museum
 - Honorable Judge Mary Tom Cravens Curnutt & Kelly Curnutt home
 - George & Sandra Campbell home
 - Michael & Kristen Jacobson home
 - Kari, Kyle & David Sargent home
- **What to expect:** Each home will be festively decorated for the holidays. Guests can enter the homes, enjoy the beautiful decorations, and visit with the homeowners. Your ticket allows the opportunity to visit each of the homes, in whichever order you prefer, throughout

the afternoon. **Please note:** *This is not a guided tour, and guests are responsible for their own transportation to each home.*

- **Honorary Chairman:** Judge Mary Tom Cravens Curnutt, daughter of Diane Cravens and former Junior League of Arlington President.

Proceeds benefit the Junior League of Arlington and Arlington Historical Society, who are proud and excited to bring this festive new event to Arlington's Holiday Season!

Local History News

Texas Rangers win first World Series

Formerly known as the Washington Senators, the team moved to Arlington in 1972 and became the Texas Rangers. With their only World Series appearances in 2010 and 2011, the team remained one of a handful who had yet to win a championship. On November 1, though, history was made when the Texas Rangers defeated the Arizona Diamondbacks in five games to win their first World Series! Congratulations, Texas Rangers!



Arlington well-represented at Tarrant County Historical Commission Summit

Three Arlington historians and preservationists received awards at the 19th annual Tarrant County Historical Commission Summit, held on October 18 in Fort Worth.

Kristina Rumans received the *Tom Vandergriff Award*, which recognizes an individual for long-term exemplary public/community service contributing to the history of Tarrant County.



Geraldine Mills received the *Susie Pritchett Lifetime Achievement Award in Preservation*, which recognizes an individual who has devoted their life to promoting the preservation and contributing to the heritage of Tarrant County.

Jason Sullivan received the *Debbie Reynolds-Hazen Award*, which recognizes an individual younger than 50 years of age who has shown leadership in collecting and preserving the history of Tarrant County.



Top Photo: Pictured are Kristina Rumans, Floreen Henry, Geraldine Mills, and Jason Sullivan, who helped represent Arlington at the event. Bottom Photo: Jason, Kristina, and Geraldine at our October Board Meeting, where a reception was held to honor the recipients. Congratulations!