



# Champion Great NEIGHBORHOODS

QUARTERLY UPDATE FY2016

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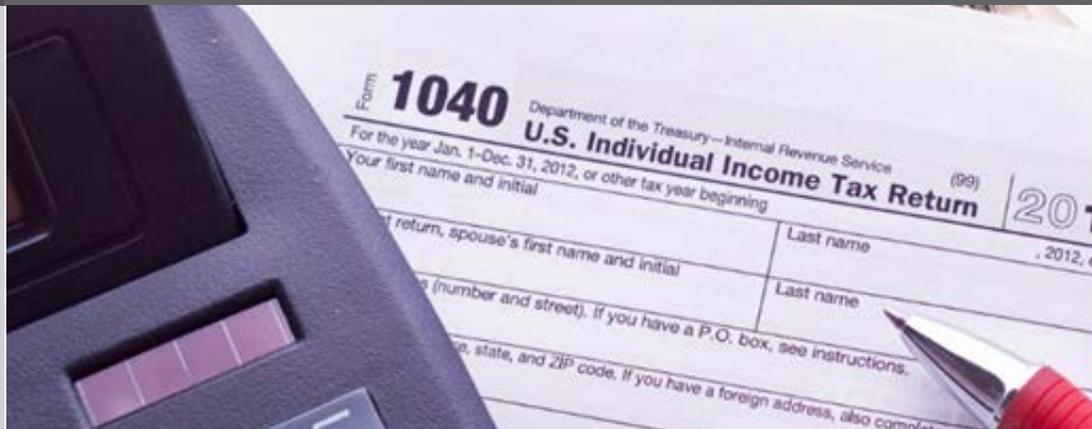
## Neighborhood Matching Grant Applications due March 15!

The Neighborhood Matching Grant Program is available to fund improvement projects that will beautify and enhance the public spaces in neighborhoods throughout The American Dream City.

Sample projects include: public art, beautification, landscaping, sidewalks, traffic calming, and neighborhood entrance signs, though this is just a partial list!

Applications for this grant program are due by Tuesday, March 15, 2016.

Get more details at [www.arlington-tx.gov/cdp/neighborhoods/grant](http://www.arlington-tx.gov/cdp/neighborhoods/grant) or email [neighborhoods@arlingtontx.gov](mailto:neighborhoods@arlingtontx.gov)



## Free Tax Preparation Assistance for Residents

The chill in the air and changing of the calendar not only indicate the New Year, they indicate a new tax season, and Arlington residents will again have access to free tax preparation assistance.

The Arlington Public Library will host AARP Tax-Aide at its branches across the city, February 1 through April 16. Appointments are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Membership in AARP is not required for assistance.

Arlington families earning less than \$54,000 a year have another option for free tax preparation through the Arlington Financial Stability Partnership's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA). This program also includes referrals to financial resources such as budgeting classes and job skills training programs. VITA sites are open from January 19 – April 18.

For more information, visit their websites at [www.aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp\\_taxaide.html](http://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp_taxaide.html) or [www.freetaxesDFW.com](http://www.freetaxesDFW.com).

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## Council Adopts Recycling Bin Ordinance

In an effort to improve neighborhood appearances, City Council adopted an ordinance in November related to the storage of residential recycling carts.

The ordinance requires that all recycling carts be stored out of sight of the public right-of-way when not placed for collection.

The purpose of the ordinance is to improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods, and to make parking easier for residents. It also will help to foster healthy and attractive neighborhoods.

The previous ordinance only required that the carts be removed from the right-of-way by 7:00 am the morning after the assigned collection day.

With the new ordinance, if a resident commits three separate violations for failing to properly store the container within six months, Code Compliance may remove the recycling cart from the property, but no citations will be issued.

You can report code violations 24 hours a day by calling the Arlington Action Center at 817-459-6777.

# Highlights

## City Council Approves Three Parks & Recreation Projects

The Arlington City Council recently approved three Parks and Recreation construction projects. These improvements will enhance outdoor recreation for residents in The American Dream City for years to come:

- Unity Arch Plaza Construction** — This project is part of the Entertainment District Sculpture Trail. The scope of work includes constructing the sculpture pad and implementing other site work such as earthwork, grading, concrete flatwork and steps, planter beds and lighting for the Unity Arch sculpture. The Entertainment District Sculpture Trail will include 15-20 strategically positioned sculpture sites at Richard Greene Linear Park and Dr. Robert Cluck Linear Park. Unity Arch will be completed in 2016.
 
- Julia Burgen Park Development Construction** — Part of the 2008 Bond Program, Julia Burgen Linear Park is a 67-acre property located in central Arlington along Johnson Creek. This project includes construction of a gated parking lot with lighting, concrete hike/bike trail, a playground for two age groups (2-5 years old and 5-12 years old), benches, picnic tables, trash receptacles, bicycle racks, water fountain, park monument sign, irrigation system and landscaping. Julia Burgen Park Development will be completed in 2017.
- Bowman Branch Linear Park Trail Design** — Bowman Branch Linear Park is a 153.7-acre property located in southeast Arlington. This project will provide a design to extend the existing trail in Webb Community Park approximately 1.4 miles east to New York Avenue. The trail will help connect neighborhoods and also provide safe pedestrian routes to and from schools, including Thelma Jones Elementary School and Timberview High School in southeast Arlington. The new concrete trail will provide a multi-purpose surface for a variety of recreational activities such as walking, jogging, biking, and in-line skating. The project includes a 12 foot-wide concrete trail, three pedestrian bridges over Bowman Branch, retaining walls, benches, and way finding signage.



# Updates

*Did you know?*

*The Martin Luther King Jr. Sports Center is the first Audubon sanctioned sports center in the United States.*

*#ChampionGreatNeighborhoods*



## Martin Luther King Jr. Sports Center

Three- and four-year old Arlington residents will soon be able to enjoy Little League at the MLK Sports Center in Southwest Arlington. The completion of the \$1.3 million project, includes two baseball fields, a 197-space parking lot, and improved irrigation and drainage.

## Reduce Cost of Ambulance Transports

The City of Arlington has partnered with American Medical Response (AMR) to provide ambulance service to residents.

In an effort to reduce costs to you and the city, the Ready Care program can help reduce or eliminate out of pocket costs for medically necessary ambulance transports.

You don't have to be a member of Ready Care to utilize the ambulance service. To find out more about the Ready Care program, contact AMR at 682-227-6055.



## Arlington Wins National Audrey Nelson Community Development Award

The City of Arlington has been selected to receive the 2016 Audrey Nelson Award for its work with the Development Corporation of Tarrant County (DCTC) to develop housing for first-time homebuyers in the Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area (NRSA) since 2011.

DCTC is developing 9 new owner-occupied housing units with a variety of innovative features, including accessibility for persons with disabilities and sustainability with energy efficient features, and currently has two homes available for purchase. Get more information at [www.tchp.net](http://www.tchp.net).



# By The Numbers: 8 Reasons to Compost

To learn more about how to improve the quality of your soil, and spend less time and money fertilizing and watering, Be sure to take advantage of the free classes offered by the City's Garbage and Recycling division.

**1** REDUCE SOLID WASTE  
Keep waste out of the landfill

IMPROVE SOIL QUALITY  
Prevent erosion up to 30% **2**



**3** IMPROVE WATER QUALITY  
Less chemicals mean healthier gardens and reduced water pollution



**4** CONSERVE WATER  
Better soil means less watering

**5** FERTILIZE SOIL  
Feed the plants AND the soil

PROVIDE NUTRIENTS  
Macro- and Micro-nutrients reduce the need for fertilizer **6**

**7** IMPROVE SOIL STRUCTURE  
Sandy soils retain moisture and nutrients longer



**8**

DO LESS WORK!  
It's easy to let nature do the work for you - FREE!

## FREE CLASSES!

[www.arlingtontx.gov/recycle](http://www.arlingtontx.gov/recycle)