

The Fielder Flash

Arlington Historical Society

December 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

Email: fielderh@swbell.net

Website: www.arlingtontxhistory.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/FielderHouseMuseum

Phone: 817-460-4001

A note from the editor

As the holiday season winds down, we start to think about the new year. We don't have too many upcoming events on our calendar yet, other than the Texas Authors Book Club, but we hope to have more events added soon. Follow us on Facebook and check out our website for updates. Even better, come out and visit us at Fielder Museum or Knapp Heritage Park!

Jason S. Sullivan, 12-28-23

Newsletter Editor

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Upcoming Events

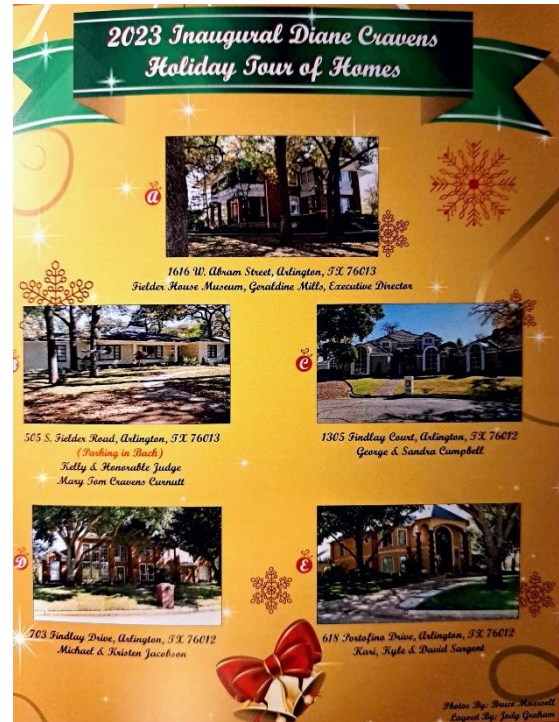
- **January 18**—Texas Authors Book Club, Fielder Museum, 6:30 PM
- **February 15**—Texas Authors Book Club, Fielder Museum, 6:30 PM
- **March 21**—Texas Authors Book Club, Fielder Museum, 6:30 PM
- **April 18**—Texas Authors Book Club, Fielder Museum, 6:30 PM
- **May 16**—Texas Authors Book Club, Fielder Museum, 6:30 PM
- **June 20**—Texas Authors Book Club, Fielder Museum, 6:30 PM

Arlington Historical Society news

Holiday Tour of Homes was a huge success

The Arlington Historical Society enjoyed a festive holiday season! The Inaugural Diane Cravens Holiday Tour of Homes on December 10th was a successful fundraiser. We sold over 125 tickets, and folks enjoyed themselves. The Junior League of Arlington and Arlington Historical Society were honored to co-sponsor the event.

Here's a quick recap if you missed the event: Fielder Museum hosted a VIP private reception to kick off the afternoon. Five homes were decorated in their festive finest, including the Fielder Museum, and guests were able to enter the homes, enjoy the beautiful decorations, and visit with the homeowners.



We saw some enthusiastic comments on Facebook after the event that we had to share:

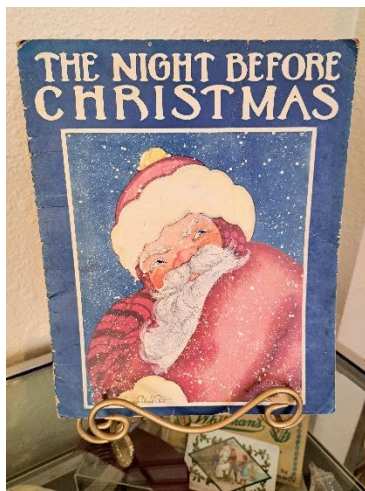
- *It was a treat! – Nicole*
- *This was a great event! -- Leanne*
- *It was amazing!!! I can't wait for next year! – Julie*
- *So fun!!! Glad I could be a part of it and excited for 2024's event!!! -- Leigh Ann*
- *Sad I had to miss but I heard wonderful things! Can't wait for next year! – April*

Indeed, plans are underway to have this event return next year and make it an annual tradition.

Thank you to those who helped with the event, those who decorated their homes, and those who attended!

We decorated Fielder Museum for the event and the holiday season. Here are a few of the Christmas decorations that we displayed.





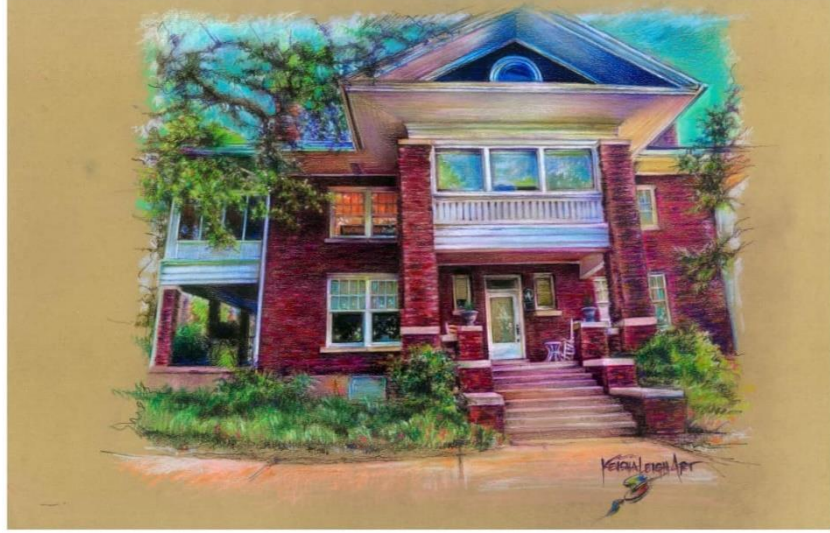
Kringle Village returned to Knapp Heritage Park

On December 2, 3, 16, and 17, Knapp Heritage Park transformed into Kringle Village. The fun and festive event, presented by Dance Theatre of Arlington, featured live entertainment, games, a holiday gift market, hot tamales for sale (and frozen ones to take home), an appearance by Santa, and much more. The rustic atmosphere at Knapp Heritage Park is the perfect place for this holiday event.



Local artist featured drawing of Fielder Museum for annual Christmas card

Did you know we have an artist with a studio space inside Fielder Museum? Keisha Smith is a talented local artist who also serves as an Arlington Historical Society Board Member. She has an annual tradition of designing a Christmas card, and her card this year featured a drawing of the Fielder Museum, pictured on the next page. Her work is stunning, and this is such a beautiful piece. Thanks, Keisha!



Check out her website at www.keishaleighsmithfineart.com or follow her on Facebook at KeishaLeighArt to see more.

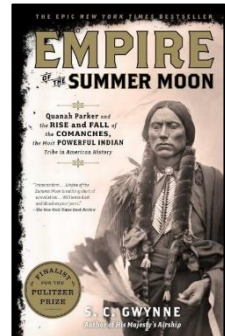
Says Keisha:

“Every year I design a Christmas card. I print, address, mail out & give away 300-400 cards annually, sharing my love of this “lost art of holiday greeting.” This is my 38th Christmas to do a card. I decided the subject should commemorate my coveted studio space, and the wondrous opportunity I get to work in and around the museum. Arlington Historical Society has been so generous and kind to me. I want to utilize this piece not only to promote my art business but to bring attention to our brick and mortar, the Fielder Museum. It is such a beautiful structure...one of Arlington's finest. I could not resist taking a picture & drawing it in all its glory.

The Fielder Museum has another special feature...representation of the railroad. My Dad's train, a 1/12-inch scale steam locomotive, has been a permanent fixture there since the early 1980s. I am so proud of that. And did you notice the little state of Texas to the right of front door? Fielder Museum holds a state historical marker! Please enjoy this image of my 2023 Christmas card...and stop by the Fielder Museum sometime!”

Texas Author Book Club returns January 18th

After a holiday break, the Texas Author Book Club returns in January. This month, we're discussing *Empire of the Summer Moon* by S.C. Gwynne. The nonfiction historical account spent 82 weeks on the New York Times Bestseller list and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Award.



Contact Fielder Museum or email texasauthorbookclub@gmail.com for more info. Check the Arlington Public Library, [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com), or bookstores for copies of the book; it may also be available as an audiobook or E-book as well. The book club meets at Fielder Museum at 6:30 PM.

Local History news

Fire Station #1 dedicated after being rebuilt

On December 8th, a dedication ceremony was held for the new Fire Station #1 in Downtown Arlington. Although renovated since its construction in 1954, it was time for a larger, more modern, and more efficient facility. The older fire station was demolished, with construction on the new one beginning in March 2022. The new station is two stories and over 17,000 square feet, with five drive-thru bays, training areas, office space, kennels for the K-9 Unit, private dorm rooms, a small exhibit space, and other amenities.



Wreaths Across America returned to local cemeteries

On December 16th, Wreaths Across America returned to Arlington for its second year. The Lucretia Council Cochran Chapter, NSDAR, coordinated the poignant event. Arlington Cemetery and the adjacent Parkdale Cemetery participated in the event, with volunteers placing a live balsam fir wreath at every Veteran's headstone. The event featured bagpipes, a moment of silence, speeches, and patriotic songs, with remembrance and appreciation for our Veterans.



Wreath placed at the headstone of Veteran Robert Earl Randol (1891-1965) in Arlington Cemetery

Mayor Vandergriff's legacy continues

This time of year, we pause to remember Mayor Tom Vandergriff, who passed away on December 30, 2010, at age 84. His obituary, available at the link below, delves into details of his life and his long list of accomplishments. It's certainly an inspirational read, and Arlington continues to feel his impact today.



Tom J. Vandergriff (1926-2010) | obituary

www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/dfw/name/tom-vandergriff-obituary?id=35727632