

Bulletin Board

Arlington Economic Development Corp. launches a search for initial director

The Arlington Economic Development Corporation (AEDC) is conducting a national search for its first executive director, who will be tasked with developing and executing a plan to attract new investment and higher-paying jobs to the City of Arlington while supporting existing local businesses within the growing and diverse community.

Arlington's new Economic Development Corporation, funded by a quarter-cent sales tax approved by voters last November, is the highest funded economic development corporation in the state of Texas.

The mission of this nonprofit organization is to help the City of Arlington, centrally located in one of the fastest growing regions in the country, become even more competitive in the world of business recruitment.

The newly formed AEDC board, appointed by the Arlington City Council last December, is working to staff the organization this year. The board has partnered with The PACE Group, a leading economic development executive search firm, to conduct a national search for the AEDC's first executive director.

"The need for a well-funded and expertly staffed economic development corporation has been discussed in our community for years," AEDC Board President Michael Jacobson says. "We are committed to finding and selecting the best fit to lead this organization and believe that a national search is the best way to go about filling the role. The selection committee is excited to review and interview candidates over the next several months and we have a high confidence in this process."

In addition to recruiting new employers and industry to the city, the new executive director will also play a major role in the community, working with business leaders, elected officials and other organizations to increase economic opportunities for local businesses and residents. The AEDC will also provide confidential site selection assistance to businesses considering Arlington — the 46th largest city in the country and a hotbed for innovation—for expansion and new investment.

"Arlington is a community with excellent assets, from our great neighborhoods, award-winning park system and desirable schools to our proximity to a network of interstate highways and a major airport. It is a tremendous place to locate business," City Manager Trey Yelverton says. "I look forward to working with AEDC's new executive director to amplify our message about the many strengths of this city to businesses both nationally and internationally."



Caring neighbors pick the ideal time to help others

Kind gestures are never ill-timed, but what Jennifer (Jiffy) Miller and her grandsons Luke and Grey did — organizing and implementing a food drive just before this winter's freeze — was particularly significant.

On Feb. 13, they completed a food drive in Wimbledon and adjoining neighborhoods. Miller, a long time resident of Wimbledon, put out 700 flyers a week ahead, notifying that the pickup would be scheduled for that following Saturday.

Luckily, it was just before the big freeze. Jennifer, Luke, Grey and several neighbors spread the word, and with the generous donations of several neighborhoods, more than 2,500 meals for people in need were received, assisting some 500 families.

The head of the food pantry at Rush Creek Church on Green Oaks said that they had received donations in the past but noted that this offering was one of the largest they had ever received — and it came at a perfect time.



UTA basketball teams add/promote coaches for next season

Both University of Texas at Arlington basketball teams enhanced their coaching staffs last month. Arlington native Dwight Thorne II was named the new men's basketball assistant coach, and KaeLynn Boyd, who spent last season as a graduate assistant for the women's basketball program, was promoted to Director of Basketball Operations for the upcoming 2021-22 season.

A standout at Arlington Martin High School from 2002-06, Thorne has spent the past five years as a member of the Denver men's basketball staff, including the last two as an assistant coach. Prior to his time with the Summit League member, Thorne II served as a graduate assistant with Georgia Tech for the 2015-16 season.

Boyd replaces Dee Davis, who was recently named the girls basketball head coach at her alma mater Princeton High School in Cincinnati, Ohio. Before coming to UTA, Boyd served as an Assistant Coach at Jacksonville Junior College (2019-20) in Jacksonville, Texas and Arkansas-Fort Smith (2018-19). She also led the St. Helena High School program from 2016-18, where she led the team to its first playoff season in decades.

Affiliated Bank, N.A., changes its name to Susser Bank

Texas-based Affiliated Bank, N.A., which has a full-service branch in Arlington at 2326 W. Pleasant Ridge Road and a loan production location at 3030 Matlock Road, has changed its name to Susser Bank to better reflect its ambitious growth strategy.

Since 2018, the Bank has operated under the ownership and direction of Susser Banc Holdings Corporation, led by fifth-generation Texas entrepreneur Sam L. Susser. Susser Bank will cater to business leaders who seek timely, personalized support from a responsive banking team.



"Texans deserve a long-term, collaborative partner that has their best interests at heart," says Chairman Sam L. Susser. "Our personalized, transparent approach is dedicated to serving entrepreneurs, professionals, and privately-held companies. Our single-minded purpose is to create outstanding financial solutions that benefit our clients, team members and the communities where we operate."

A diversified bank with robust capital, liquidity and leading-edge technology, Susser Bank creates positive experiences for customers and team members while offering a full suite of personal and commercial banking solutions.

While the name change legally went into effect Dec. 31, 2020, Susser Bank recently introduced a new logo, website, social media updates and core marketing materials. For more: susserbank.com

Library's Summer Reading Challenge to begin this month and run through July 31

The Arlington Public Library Summer Reading Challenge will take place from June 1-July 31 at all library locations. Each week will feature manageable but fun goals, designed by librarians specifically for each age group. Participants can read a book, try a literacy activity, make a craft, interact with family and friends, and more.

Children can complete any four boxes in a row on the Kids Challenge card. When they get four in a row, they can visit the nearest library location to get a book prize. Teens can complete any four boxes in a row on the Teen Challenge card. When they get four in a row, they can drop the card off and be entered for the weekly prize drawing. Adults, too, can participate. Every time you read one book or attend one program (virtually or in-person), submit an entry form online to be entered into a weekly drawing for a gift pack.

For more: arlingtonlibrary.org/src