

On Call Inside the Blue

A community news publication of the Arlington Police Department

Class is in Session for 24 New Police Recruits

This month, class will be back in session for many North Texas area schools, colleges and universities.

At the Arlington Police Department, class is already in session for 24 new recruits who reported to the Arlington Police Training Center on July 23. The new police recruits bring a wealth of diverse experiences and backgrounds to Academy Class #45. During class introductions, some spoke proudly of their service to their country in the military. Others said they enjoyed careers in security and probationary work. One new recruit has even worked as a 9-1-1 dispatcher. They are husbands, wives, mothers, proud fathers, sons and daughters, ranging in age from 24 to 38. They hail from many parts of the world; a few of them from Arlington and others from as far away as Virginia, Indianapolis and Nigeria.

They all have one thing in common – a strong desire to become an Arlington police officer.

“... Welcome to the first day of your new career,” said Acting Police Chief Will Johnson. “Your reputation started the day you walked in for preliminary interviews. The reputation you leave behind will be based on your ethics and hard work.”

“I expect your best every day,” Johnson told the class, which also includes eight women. “I expect you to leave everyone you meet with dignity, and to always do what’s right.”

The recruits were instructed to take advantage of every officer at the Training Center who are “here to help you be the best.” The first day of class is followed by 28 weeks of classroom instruction, physical fitness/scenario training and law enforcement study and examinations. Graduation is scheduled for Feb. 2013, which is then followed by 18 weeks of training with Arlington police officers on city streets.

Good luck to our new recruits!



Acting Police Chief Will Johnson welcomes new recruits to class.

Did You Know?

Arlington Police Department School Resource Officers are ready for a new year!

On Arlington’s junior high and high school campuses this year, School Resource Officers are ready to present more than 40 different public safety topics, ranging from drug and alcohol awareness to traffic, internet and personal safety.

Lt. Scott Brown said truancy remains a big concern as the City works with its partners to reduce the number of unexcused student absences in classrooms. **Pedestrian safety is also a priority as children and their families walk and drive to and from school. Use caution in school zones!**

Support student safety and achievement this year by calling Crime Stoppers at **817-469-TIPS (8477)** when you observe students who are not in class during regular school hours.

What’s Going On ...

APD Appreciates Its Volunteers!

Reminder - An Ice Cream Social on Aug. 3 is our “thank you” for your support. Call 817-459-5723 for details.

Congratulations! A new Community Watch Group will meet Aug. 9 on Delta Drive.

The Second Annual **Officer Jillian M. Smith Gala/Casino Night Fundraiser** is Friday, Aug. 10 at the Crown Plaza in Arlington. Tickets are \$35 and proceeds will benefit scholarships for area high school seniors. Call 817-487-5177 or 214-287-6921 for tickets.

The Arlington Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association will sponsor a **Craft Fair on Saturday, Aug. 11** from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Ace Volleyball Courts of Arlington, 3120 E. Pioneer Parkway. Call 682-561-3155 for more information.

The **Community Watch Group** at the **Claremont** will meet Aug. 14.

Backpacks, school supplies and more will be available at this **Back To School Event on Aug. 18** from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Sam Houston High School.

Slow down in school zones. The first day back to school for Arlington and Mansfield students is **Monday, Aug. 27.**

The American Heart Association Heart Walk is Sept. 8 at the Fort Worth Stockyards. Teams are now forming.

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www.ArlingtonPD.org

On Call in the North District

North District Apartment Managers Meet for Networking and Information-Sharing



Victoria Hernandez

On July 10, the Arlington Police Department held its quarterly North District Apartment Managers meeting at the Heather Ridge Apartments.

These quarterly meetings are great information-sharing sessions for all in attendance.

Meeting presenters in July were Victoria Hernandez with the Arlington Housing Authority, Cheri Colbert with Arlington Animal Services and Joan Church with the Arlington Urban Ministries.

Acting Deputy Police Chief Leland Strickland opened the meeting by welcoming all managers and introducing himself as the new acting deputy chief for the North District. He stressed the importance of calling 9-1-1 when suspicious activity is occurring.

“As a police department, we’re in partnership with you, our community, to keep everyone safe and we need the extra eyes and ears within our apartment communities.”

Victoria Hernandez spoke to managers about the city ordinance requiring all apartments to have smoke detectors in bedrooms. Cheri Colbert shared information about animal leash ordinances. She also spoke about microchip services for dogs and cats, which helps lost pets be returned safely to their owners when recovered by Animal Services. Joan Church informed us all about the resources available for residents who need rental assistance and help with utility bills and groceries.

A special thanks to all who attended and shared valuable information that supports families and enhances the quality of life within our communities.



Acting North District Chief Leland Strickland



Each month in On Call, watch for more public safety highlights from the North District. Contact APD Crime Prevention Officer Kimberly Fretwell at 817-459-5589 or Kim.Fretwell@Arlingtontx.gov.

On Call in the South District

Together, Arlington’s Outreach Efforts Support a Safer Community for Youth



Not even the 100+ degree temperatures could stop South District Sgt. Donnie Glenn and Foot Patrol Officers Kendrick Smith and Corey Valsin from hosting a successful community outreach event on June 30 at the Neighborhood Walmart located at 735 W. Sublett Road.

At this event, APD Crime Prevention Officer Jakisha Jones provided free digital fingerprinting services and operated a photo booth. Fire Stations No. 15, 12 and 19 hosted a Fire Safety booth, which was both educational and fun. Mission Arlington volunteers had awesome games and entertainment for all the youth in attendance.

A special thanks to the Neighborhood Walmart and Store Manager Eric Broadnaz who allowed APD to setup and host this safety event in their parking lot. Neighborhood Walmart staff were gracious enough to provide cold beverages and treats on this hot summer day!

A special thanks to our business and faith-based partners!

This is one of many outreach programs the South District will host in the coming months, and each time, it will be our goal to promote safety and help positively impact the quality of life in Arlington.



Thank You!



New crime prevention highlights every month from the South District! Contact APD Crime Prevention Officer Jakisha Jones at 817-459-6468 or Jakisha.Jones@Arlingtontx.gov.

On Call in the East District

Report Cards Go Out in East District in Effort to Prevent Motor Vehicle Thefts

The area of study for this crime reduction program was in East Arlington and the subject was vehicle burglary prevention.

Crime Prevention Officer VaNessa Harrison helped to organize East District Foot Patrol, Arlington Hispanic Citizens Police Academy Alumni, and APD High School Explorers to distribute over 2,000 Burglary of Motor Vehicle (BMV) report cards last month.

The BMV report card is part of a crime reduction program that allows us to observe vehicles and then use certain factors to determine if the vehicle is a target for burglary. Some of the factors include the following:

- *Are items visible in the vehicle?*
- *Are doors unlocked?*
- *Are windows down?*
- *Is the vehicles parked in a vulnerable area?*



More than 2,000 BMV report cards issued!

The program was well received by the residents of east Arlington who received a report card. Some were so receptive to the program they asked for more specific suggestions on how to be sure their vehicle will not be target for burglary. Many used this opportunity to simply engage officers in conversation about crime prevention and police work. This effort was a big success involving many community partners. A big thank you to East District Foot Patrol, AAHCPA, APD Explorers, and staff from the East Administrative Bureau. For more information about the BMV Report Card, contact the APD Crime Prevention Unit at 817-459-5725.

Every month, watch for a new Crime Prevention highlight from the East District. For more information, contact Crime Prevention Officer Faviola Delgado at 817-459-5817 or Faviola.Delgado@ArlingtonTx.gov.



On Call in the West District

Arlington C.O.P. Members "Answer the Call" When the Community Needs Them

On April 3, 2012, the severe storm that moved through Arlington produced multiple tornados that struck in the southwest part of the City and left a path of destruction in neighborhoods. It is times like these when the Police Department depends upon volunteers to assist us in mitigating critical incidents.

Volunteers answered the call and positively impacted the City's response capability. Many of these dedicated volunteers hailed from the Citizens On Patrol - Mobile program and exceeded expectations in service delivery.

Volunteers patrolled damaged areas. They reported suspicious activity, transported police officers and other volunteers to their work assignments and distributed bottled water and meals to officers and homeowners during cleanup efforts. Many of them lived in the affected areas and were still bound by a sense of public service and a desire to help those with greater needs.

For these reasons, Acting Police Chief Will Johnson presented Citizen Community Service Participation Awards to the following volunteers during a Managers Meeting in July:

Janie Gonzales Sid Huston Bill Jezek
Steve Messina Patti Noe J.J. Pueblo
Edward Ricardez Dave Walker



Do you want to become an APD volunteer? Visit www.ArlingtonPD.org and click on Get Involved or contact APD Crime Prevention Officer Doug Glotfelty at 817-459-6072 or Doug.Glotfelty@Arlingtontx.gov. Thank you!

2012 – The Year of Volunteerism with Arlington Police Department

When it comes to volunteerism, there's no better place to serve than with the Arlington Police Department.

The department's new Citizens Assisting Police (C.A.P.) program offers a wide variety of unique volunteer opportunities not found in most places.

Volunteers can up to become a Citizen on Patrol or volunteer to report suspicious activity from a Sky Watch Tower or via closed-circuit cameras during special events in the Entertainment District.

Volunteers can work near their home and assist customers at the Front Desk inside a Police Service Center or help the Police Department with general clerical work or police traffic reporting. Dozens of other opportunities are also available!

Sgt. Curtis Petties oversees the volunteer program, which has processed more than 230 applications from residents of various ages and talents. Consider donating a few hours a week to your Arlington Police Department. Visit www.ArlingtonPD.org and click on **Volunteer at APD** underneath the Get Involved section or call 817-459-5723.



Lt. James Long greets customers at the Front Desk inside the Ott Cribbs Public Safety Building.



Ramon Gray helps out in APD sky watch towers during special events in the Entertainment District.

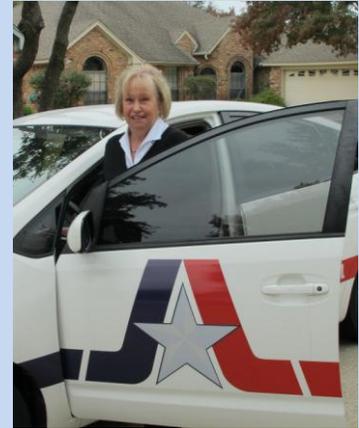
The APD Volunteer Ice Cream Social is Aug. 3.

Meet APD Volunteer of the Month, Patti Noe!

When officers work overtime as first responders during a crisis, Citizen On Patrol-Mobile volunteer Patti Noe is among the first residents to answer the call to assist. At orientation meetings for new COP mobile members, this volunteer brings refreshments, a warm welcome and a readiness to serve. Each week, she donates 20 to 25 volunteer hours as a citizen on patrol in her south Arlington neighborhood.

"Patti is a very reliable COP Mobile volunteer and strictly adheres to the department's policies and procedures," said Crime Prevention Analyst Curtice Ervin who works closely with the Citizens On Patrol program. "Patti provides ride-along assistance to new COP Mobile members. New volunteers speak highly of her patience with them and knowledge of procedures."

For these reasons, Patti Noe has been selected by the Arlington Police Department as the June Volunteer of the Month. Congratulations!



More Than Books! At the Library, Arlington Children Learn Bike Safety

This summer, Officer VaNessa Harrison led bicycle safety events at the Southwest Branch Library for children ages 5 to 9 years old. Southwest Branch Librarian Lauren Jacobs co-hosted the events, which began with storytime followed by an obstacle course outside with their own bikes. Officer Harrison inspected every bike and our riders had fun! Here some safety tips we shared:

- **Wear a helmet.** When properly worn, a helmet will protect your head in most cases from injury. A properly fitting helmet is snug, but not squeezing the head. Arlington city ordinance requires every child under age 18 to wear a helmet.
- **Make sure bike is in good condition.** Never ignore defects such as rust in the chain link or low tire pressure.
- **Avoid riding at night.** Over 90 percent of accidents occur at night. If riding at night, the front of the bike must have a lamp that emits white in color and is visible from a distance of 500 feet. The rear of the bike must have a red reflector, which can be purchased at any hardware store. Always wear bright, reflective clothing when riding at night.
- **Always secure your bicycle.** A combination lock is a great deterrent for bicycle theft.
- **Learn proper hand signals.** Use them to let others around you know what you're planning to do while riding your bike on the roadway.



APD Officer Vanessa Harrison

On Call

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