

# On Call Inside the Blue



A community news publication of the Arlington Police Department

## Arlington and Panama City Law Enforcement: International Partners for Safer Communities

**ARLINGTON, TX** \_\_ With more than 1,800 miles of terrain between them, the cities of Arlington and Panama City, Panama are working together to improve their communities as part of an exchange program that creates opportunities for international learning.

Sponsored by the International City/County Management Association, the Arlington Police Department is sharing best practices, crime data, training and professional development information with Panama City law enforcement agencies. Panamanian delegations are learning more about Arlington's School Resource Officer program and community engagement initiatives such as Citizens on Patrol, Citizens Police Academy and Hispanic Citizens Police Academy. They have toured the Emergency Operations Center, Dispatch and Jail operations and shadowed officers to learn about youth programs and faith-based partnerships.



APD and Panama City law enforcement together for information sharing and learning.



Acting Deputy Police Chief Os Flores, one of four delegates selected to represent APD, said the exchange program is presenting opportunities for learning and information sharing.

"Through this program, we have been given a unique opportunity to highlight successful programs and assess other possible approaches to further connect with the communities we serve," Flores said.

Officer VaNessa Harrison sharpened her Spanish language skills so that she could benefit from the information sharing that occurs between the agencies. She is joined by Officer Faviola Delgado, an East District Crime Prevention Officer. About 90 percent of the population in Panama City is bilingual.

"Like America, Panama City, Panama is a melting pot of people from many ethnicities," said Officer Harrison. "There is tremendous respect for cultural differences and law enforcement."

*(More APD and Panama City continued on Page 4)*

## What's Going On ...



On October 2, the Arlington Police Department will be ready for **National Night Out!** Neighborhoods will be ready, too. [Click here](#) to make sure your block party or activity is registered with us.

The **All-City Community Watch Coordinators Meeting** is Sept. 6.

Register your entire family for a free **Bike Safety Class**. [Click here](#) to register.

Rain or Shine. The **Communities Against Crime 5K Run and 1 Mile Fun Walk** is Sept. 8 at River Legacy Park.

**Balling for Education** youth benefit basketball game is Saturday, Sept. 8 at Sam Houston High School, sponsored by the African American Peace Officers Association of Arlington.

The Spanish Oaks Apartment's first **Community Watch meeting** is Sept. 15.

**Ecofest returns Sept. 22.** Visit the APD vendor booth for crime prevention information games and prizes!

Class starts soon. Citizens Police Academy Class #52 convenes Sept. 10. Hispanic Citizens Police Academy Class #23 begins Sept. 27.

**Connect with APD.** Become a fan. Like us on Facebook. Follow us on Twitter. Subscribe on Nixle.

# On Call in the North District

## APD and Faith-Based Group Set Out to Educate More People About Heat Safety

Bishop Leonard Oldums and his wife, Barbara, of Cornerstone Outreach Church in Arlington, were watching the evening news when they saw a report about a child who died because he was left inside of a hot vehicle. He and his wife traveled to the Arlington Police Department to see how they could help get more education into the community about the dangers of the heat and leaving children unattended in vehicles. On a hot summer day in Texas, the temperature outside can climb above the 100 degree mark. Even on a cool day, the temperature inside a vehicle can rise quickly.

"I wondered how long it would take for the heat inside my car to become unbearable," Bishop Oldums said. He climbed into his car, rolled up the windows and turned off the engine. In less than four minutes and 20 seconds, he said it became difficult to breathe.

After meeting with the APD Community Support Bureau, the Oldums organized their congregation to begin distributing educational flyers. I joined them in August at a nearby shopping center to talk with shoppers who were moving about the parking lot in their usual daily rush. On this day, the motorists we saw took their children inside the store with them. Fortunately, we found no children or pets alone inside vehicles! Thank you, Cornerstone Outreach Church. Your efforts on this summer day could save a life!



Cornerstone Outreach Church

**Did you know?** The bodies of infants and children heat up 3 to 5 times faster than those of adults. Get more facts at [www.nhtsa.gov/safety/hypothermia](http://www.nhtsa.gov/safety/hypothermia).



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](mailto:Kim.Fretwell@Arlingtontx.gov).

# On Call in the South District

## Association Gives Honorary Membership, Hosts Successful Crafts Fair Fundraiser

The Arlington Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association is doing a lot for the city and the Arlington Police Department. In August, they held two successful events in one week! On August 8, members proclaimed retired APD Deputy Chief Blake Miller a honorary member of their association. Miller retired from the City of Arlington in February 2012 after 23 years of service. He is now the Vice President over security for the Texas Rangers Major League Baseball team. ACPAAA President Pat Struble said, "Blake has always been like family to us. He has assisted in helping to open many doors for us to volunteer within the Police Department." The ACPAAA is looking forward to its continued work with Blake. In June 2013, the ACPAAA will host the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Texas Citizens' Police Academy Alumni Association Convention and Law Enforcement Training in Arlington. On Aug. 11, association members hosted a successful Craft Fair. Shoppers were able to find all sorts of unique items, vintage goods, jewelry, art and clothing. The children enjoyed face painting activities.

ACPAAA members greeted everyone who came through their doors with a smile. Arlington officers benefit from your efforts and we are thankful for your continued support!



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](mailto:Jakisha.Jones@Arlingtontx.gov) for more information.

# On Call in the East District

## Successful East District Crime Prevention Initiatives are Highlighted in Panama City



As part of the International City/County Management Association international exchange program, the Arlington Police Department has a unique opportunity to showcase some of the successful community outreach programs underway in our city, including the East District. As part of this effort, Panama City law enforcement agencies are learning about programs such as East Arlington Renewal, the Vehicle Burglary Report Card, and Weed & Seed/Project Reach.

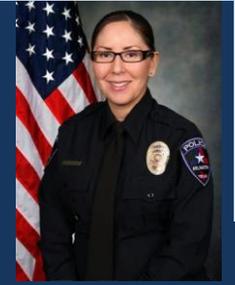
On July 30-Aug. 2, East District Officer VaNessa Harrison, Acting Deputy Police Chief Os Flores and Lt. Leo Daniels visited several communities in Panama City, Panama. They observed some successful crime reduction initiatives such as a local park that features an interactive traffic safety course for children. This program is aimed at reducing traffic accidents and fatalities among youth. During the class, children drive around in go karts simulating vehicles on the roadway. Other children act as pedestrians learning how to properly use crosswalks.



Arlington officers toured a neighborhood, which has been dilapidated for several years. Panama City is making significant investments to rebuild the area. Residents are being given an opportunity to help with reconstruction. They are gaining job skills, earning an income and increasing pride and ownership in their community.

While there, Arlington officers also taught community-based policing programs and attended a conference that focused on youth development.

It is with great pride that we highlight the achievements going on in the East District as study and learn new ways to connect better with the communities we serve.



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](mailto:Faviola.Delgado@ArlingtonTx.gov).

# On Call in the West District

## Edward Ricardez Finds Many Great Ways to Get Involved with Arlington PD



Edward Ricardez is presented the **Volunteer of the Month** award from Acting Police Chief Will Johnson.

The Arlington Police Department benefits greatly from energetic residents who are willing to volunteer their time to help improve the quality of life in Arlington.

Many have stepped up to volunteer their valuable time to help the Police Department. This month, I would like to highlight a volunteer from the West District who has gone above and beyond the call of duty to serve. **Edward Ricardez is APD's Volunteer of the Month for July.**

Edward Ricardez is a retired engineer from Lockheed Martin. A friend who knew about his long-time interest in law enforcement, saw an announcement about the Citizens Police Academy and suggested he enroll. Since graduating from the academy two years ago, Mr. Ricardez has continued to become more involved in department volunteer efforts. He joined the Arlington Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association and later became one of the first Citizens On

Patrol Mobile members in the West District. After attending class and becoming familiar with the program, he recognized an opportunity to help other new members in training. His assistance is greatly appreciated by the new COP Mobile volunteers.

Mr. Ricardez said he enjoys working with APD. He especially enjoys the time he spends assisting with police scenario training exercises.

"Training is invaluable," he said. "The lessons officers learn will save lives."

Aspecial thanks to Mr. Ricardez and all volunteers in the West District who make personal commitments to help their city by volunteering their time with Arlington Police Department.



Do you want to become an APD volunteer? Visit [www.ArlingtonPD.org](http://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](mailto:Doug.Glotfelty@Arlingtontx.gov).

## International Partners for Safer Communities (Continued from Page 1)

Located near the Pacific Ocean, Panama City, Panama is a hub for international banking and commerce. Like Arlington, tourism is an important revenue generator. During a recent visit, Arlington officers were led to a daycare center for about 1,000 school-aged children where they observed municipal police officers participating in an integrated educational approach to personal safety and teaching youth about the importance of making positive choices.

Lt. Leo Daniels said the program allows him to see how sustainable community change cannot be driven by law enforcement and government alone.

"The commitment to change must come from within the community with the support of police, city government and the private sector," Lt. Daniels said.

Acting Chief Will Johnson said any law enforcement entity that seeks to be the best must "constantly reassess and improve."

"Our partnership with Panama and ICMA gives us the perfect opportunity to do just that, and advance our reputation for not only being one of the greatest police departments nationally, but internationally," he said.

"We are so grateful to the Arlington Police Department for all of the time they have put in to this partnership," said Isabelle Bully-Omictin, director of the ICMA Municipal Partnerships for Violence Prevention in Central America. "They have helped to change the perception of the police and citizens with respect to the role of the police in Panama and the importance of prevention, which will have a lasting impact on society."

## Good Police Work Spotlight! Agencies Work Together to Interrupt Cable Battery Theft Operation



**Time Warner officials thank APD for a job well done!**

The Arlington Police Department took the lead on an organized theft investigation that resulted in the arrest and indictment of suspects responsible for a rash of cable battery thefts in north Texas. The operation involved multiple law enforcement agencies.

Investigators said suspects were "posing as Time Warner personnel, breaking into cable supply cabinets and stealing batteries and power supply wiring harnesses." The metals inside the batteries were exchanged for cash.

"When a battery was stolen, it wasn't just cable service being interrupted," said Sgt. Kyle Dishko. "Customers were losing telephone and internet services, including the ability to call 9-1-1 in an emergency."

During a one-year period, Time Warner reported 228 battery theft offenses in Arlington alone. Working with Time Warner security officials and other jurisdictions, a regional trend was soon confirmed. Communities were engaged, including Arlington's Citizens on Patrol who circulated bulletins while on the lookout for suspicious activity.

Using decoy batteries containing GPS devices, pole-mounted surveillance cameras and batteries with serial numbers, investigators conducted sting operations inside recycling businesses and recovered the stolen batteries. Warrants were issued and suspects were arrested and indicted.

"This is a great example of good old fashioned police work and how public and private partnerships together can build strong regional relationships that make a difference," said Assistant Police Chief Jaime Ayala.



## Second Annual Officer Jillian Smith Charity Gala Raises Big \$\$\$ for Youth Scholarships

**Thank you! The Officer Jillian Smith Charity Gala on Aug. 10 raised \$13,119.** This event was sponsored by the African American Peace Officers Association of Arlington. Guests enjoyed live music, casino-style games, food and fun! A special thanks to **Platinum Sponsors:** Sandra Brown, the Arlington Municipal Police Association and the Arlington Convention and Visitors Bureau and **Gold Level Sponsors:** The Arlington Police Association and Babe's Chicken Dinner House. Proceeds will benefit scholarships for Arlington area college-bound youth interested in law enforcement.

This event is named for Officer Jillian Michelle Smith who was fatally wounded on December 28, 2010, while protecting and serving.

See more photo highlights from the gala at [Arlington Police Department Facebook](#).

## On Call

Published monthly by the APD Community Support Bureau - Office of Communication  
Editor, Cheryl Carpenter

817-459-5384 or [PDOOC@Arlingtontx.gov](mailto:PDOOC@Arlingtontx.gov)  
[www.ArlingtonPD.org](http://www.ArlingtonPD.org)