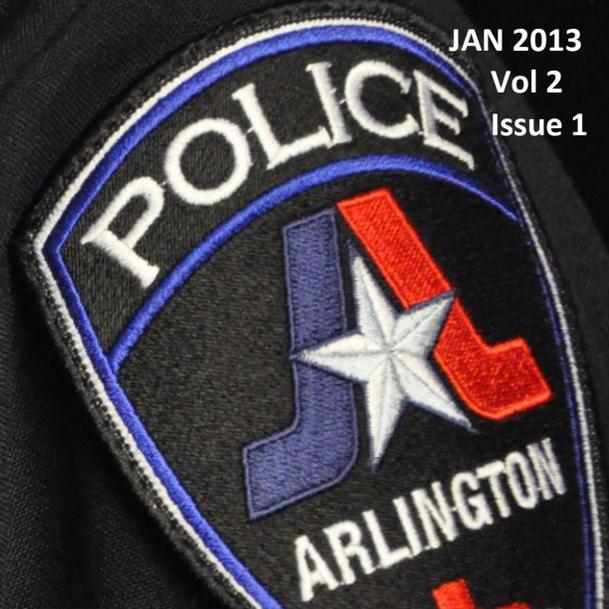


# On Call Inside the Blue



A community news publication of the Arlington Police Department

## New Year! Many New Successes Ahead in Public Safety

The year ended with record-setting crime reduction numbers across the city and a new year brings more opportunities for the Arlington Police Department and the communities we serve.

munication and collaborative efforts for a safer environment for youth to learn and succeed. In 2013, watch for more opportunities to build safer and better neighborhoods through community involvement. Join our conversation on social media, stay informed and connect with the Arlington Police Department for a safe, great 2013!



Will Johnson

With 2013 upon us, Arlington is “well on our way to reducing crime in the city,” said Interim Police Chief Will Johnson.

With a strategic focus on traffic safety, citizen engagement and legitimacy, 2013 promises to be another great year for the city of Arlington and Arlington Police Department, he said.

“In 2013, we’ll continue to gain momentum as we renew our commitments to doing the things that bring value to our communities. We’ll remain dedicated to providing top-notch public safety to the community.”

Assistant Chief James Hawthorne, who heads up the Community Support Bureau, said the new year brings more opportunities to enhance com-

### Did you know?

**Arlington has moved up in a national ranking of U.S. cities who take a united stand against crime. In a comparison of cities larger than 300,000 people, Arlington now ranks fifth in National Night Out planning and participation, according to the National Association of Town Watch. Now’s a good time to start planning. National Night Out returns in October.**

## In the Community

**Starting January 16. Remember to plan your route!** Expect detours along the Union Pacific rail line in Arlington between Fort Worth and Dallas. The project includes four phases of track reconstruction. [More details here.](#)

The North District Apartment Managers will meet Jan. 8.

The Citizens Police Academy General Meeting is Jan. 10.

The Community Watch Group at Clover Hill Apartments will meet Jan. 15.

Congratulations! The Oaks of Arlington will hold its first Community Watch meeting on Jan. 17.

The Arlington Martin Luther King Jr. “Sharing the Dream” Celebration begins Jan. 18. Meet student scholarship winners, award finalists and full schedule of Arlington [MLK events here.](#)

## New Members Join Hispanic Citizens Police Academy

Thirty-four new members have successfully completed the Hispanic Citizens Police Academy. These graduates will now become active members of the HCPA Alumni Association as supporters of the APD and safer communities where they live and work. Family members and friends gathered on December 20, at City Hall for the graduation, following 11 weeks of public safety and crime prevention lessons in classroom settings conducted in Spanish.



Congratulations Hispanic Citizens Police Academy Class #23



### Thank you!



**Lt. Carol Riddle read and scored MLK student essays.**

**Congratulations!** Arlington Police Academy Class #45 will graduate Feb. 2.

**Save the Date: Feb. 19** – NEW Training opportunity for Citizens on Patrol.

New Citizen Police Academies are now enrolling.

Visit with your Crime Prevention Officer for an application or [www.ArlingtonPD.org](http://www.ArlingtonPD.org)

[www.ArlingtonPD.org](http://www.ArlingtonPD.org)

# On Call in the North District

## Business Community Watch Groups are Important Assets in North Arlington



Lt. Kiker leads a safety discussion at this Business Community Watch Meeting.

Business Community Watch Groups are a great asset to the Arlington Police Department and the city. Very similar to Community Watch, these groups function as the extra eyes and ears we need in business districts to help prevent crime and keep people and property safe. Business owners keep an eye out for their neighbors.

The Business Community Watch in the Great Southwest Industrial District is a good example of one such group. Founded in 1956, the Great Southwest Industrial District remains a premier location for businesses and tenants along SH360 in the north district. This Business Crime Watch program is working to take a bite out of crime and revitalize the area.

At a recent Business Community Watch Group meeting hosted by SA-CO Chief Executive Officer Becky Nussbaum, Lieutenant Thomas Kiker talked with managers about the importance of being observant, reporting suspicious activity and installing good surveillance equipment.

Detective Thomas Stellato serves as the beat detective for the district. From the station, he sends criminal offense updates, including photos, trends and patterns to the coordinators in the area to keep them informed. With this type of information sharing, everyone is able to work together to help keep the Great Southwest Industrial District a safe place to work and conduct business.



APD Beat Detective Thomas Stellato

If you're interested in starting a Business Community Watch, contact me about joining together and getting a group started in your area.

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

# On Call in the South District

## Students Returning to Class are Reminded to Drive Safe on Area Roadways

With another busy holiday season now over, the Arlington Police Department encourages high school and college students returning to class to put safety first. So many times we hear about the automobile tragedies that occur because of impaired driving, distractions inside the vehicle and speed. These incidents ultimately claim the lives of many students every year across the country. Before heading out, keep these tips in mind for a safe year on the roadway!

**Don't Drink and Drive. It's the Law!** - The Arlington Police Department and many law enforcement agencies across the region continue to increase their presence on our roadways in an effort to reduce the amount of accidents caused by impaired driving. Arrests can result in the suspension of your driver's license and jail time.

**Don't Text and Drive** - Texting while driving is a dangerous combination. In Arlington, violations are punishable by a fine up to \$200. APD encourages the use of hand free devices such as a blue tooth.

If you have navigation devices, cell phones and other electronics in the vehicle, you are encouraged to stop and pull into a safe place before using these devices. Keep your eyes on the road. Allow messages to wait.

**Watch Your Speed** - Allow plenty of travel time to and from your destinations to prevent speeding. Maintain posted speed limits and be extra cautious in school zones, neighborhoods and near park areas.

### This Reminder!

If you're considering a career in law enforcement, you should remember that these types of incidents on your record could impact your ability to become an officer. Visit our website and click on the Police Recruiting link for more information about a planning a career with the Arlington Police Department. Be Safe!



New crime prevention highlights every month from the South District Crime Prevention Officer Jakisha Jones. Contact her at 817-459-6468 or [Jakisha.Jones@Arlingtontx.gov](mailto:Jakisha.Jones@Arlingtontx.gov) for more information.

# On Call in the East District

## Don't Leave The Keys Inside Your Vehicle!

With more cold winter months ahead, the Arlington Police Department reminds drivers to "Take Your Keys with You!"

According to the National Insurance Crime Bureau, a motor vehicle is stolen in the U.S. every 33 seconds. This is roughly 1 million vehicles stolen every year that end up in the hands of thieves. Vehicles are often stolen at locations such as convenience stores, gas stations and near automatic teller machines. Many are taken because drivers simply leave the vehicle running unattended with the keys in the ignition.



### Protect Your Vehicle

- **Never leave your vehicle running unattended.**
- **Take your keys.** Never leave a second set of keys in your vehicle.
- **Lock your vehicle.** A high percentage of all vehicles stolen are left unlocked.
- **Hide your valuables.** Items visible inside your vehicle could increase your chance of being victimized.
- **Park in well-lit or heavy traffic areas.** Thieves do not like witnesses. Look for an attended lot or parking garage.
- **Install an anti-theft device.**



- **Give parking attendants the ignition key only.** Keep trunk and glove box locked.

**If your vehicle is stolen, immediately contact the Arlington Police Department and file a report.** Help law enforcement locate your vehicle by providing the Vehicle Identification Number.

*Protect Your Vehicle  
Take Your Keys With You!*

Every month, watch for a new Crime Prevention highlight from the East District Crime Prevention Officer Faviola Delgado. Contact her at 817-459-5817 or [Faviola.Delgado@ArlingtonTx.gov](mailto:Faviola.Delgado@ArlingtonTx.gov).

# On Call in the West District

## Quarterly Meetings Unite Community Watch Coordinators from Across the City

The West District hosted a successful city-wide Community Watch Group coordinators meeting on December 4. These meetings are held quarterly and the meeting place rotates around the city. There is always great camaraderie and a sharing of important information at these meetings.

The guest presenters at the First Quarter meeting were detectives from the Arlington Police Department Gang Unit. Their presentation addressed current gang trends in Arlington. Participants learned about the history of gangs and how the Gang Unit works. Presenters shared information about how citizens can assist the Police Department in keeping our schools and neighborhoods safe from gang activity.

More than 40 volunteer Community Watch Coordinators attended this session. After the presentation, residents were divided into smaller geographic sections to meet with command staff from their districts.

These meetings are beneficial because they allow Community Watch Coordinators from across the city to come together, share ideas and learn from one another.

The Community Watch program is led by the Community Support Bureau of the Arlington Police Department. For more information about this program, contact me and I can assist you in getting a group started in your neighborhood.



Learn more about  
Arlington Community  
Watch!

Visit  
[www.ArlingtonPD.org](http://www.ArlingtonPD.org)



New crime prevention highlights each month from the West District Crime Prevention Officer Doug Glotfelty. Contact him at 817-459-6072 or [Doug.Glotfelty@Arlingtontx.gov](mailto:Doug.Glotfelty@Arlingtontx.gov).

# This Month, Arlington Police Department Will Launch New Broadcast Program

Inside APD TV arrives in January! The Arlington Police Department will soon debut new video programming designed to connect, inform and engage.

Inside APD will be the catalyst to inform you about ongoing initiatives while highlighting the good police work being performed by officers throughout the department every day of the year.

Watch a new segment every Friday at noon. Find Inside APD TV on all department social media platforms, including Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and NIXLE. Also coming to cable.

If you miss an episode, don't worry! All video segments will be archived.



Join our Conversation 24/7/365



[www.arlingtonpd.org](http://www.arlingtonpd.org)

## If You Are Not Connected with APD, You're Missing:

- Tweetalongs
- News Advisories
- Community Alerts
- Crime Updates
- Inside APD TV
- ... *And More!*



# Carter Junior High School Students Enjoy Lunch Time with Their Future

When Officer VaNessa Harrison decided to start the "Lunch With Your Future" program at Carter Junior High School, she never dreamed it would be such a big hit.

Students meet up in the school library at lunch time to listen and ask questions while exploring career opportunities. It's a lunch time favorite that's capturing the attention of students throughout the school.

Guest presenters over the past year have included professionals from many career fields, but on Dec. 18, lunch time discussions in the library were dedicated to a future career in policing.

"What goes through your mind when you think about a career as a police officer?" Officer VaNessa Harrison asked students as they settled in with their lunch trays.

Thirteen year old Amir Mohammed said "safety."

"I want to be able to protect people and protect my family," he announced.

Another student, 13-year-old Brandon Avila, said he enjoys watching detective work and crime solving on television.

Officer Harrison told the students that a career in policing requires hard work and discipline. She told students to study

hard and make good choices.

She talked with them about the role of the police academy and what to expect on the streets during field training. She said officers do more than write tickets and make arrests.

"When you are in class, we're here to protect you," she said.

With riot gear worn by Special Response Teams displayed on tables, students had a chance to ask questions about the various areas of police work and talk about the tools being used in law enforcement.

They were also introduced to Sgt. Scott Vickers, an APD School Resource Officer, and Detective Byron Stewart whose work involves homicide investigations of adults and children.

Stewart reminded students to avoid strangers and always be aware of your surroundings, including internet predators.

When lunch was over, the group of seventh graders said farewell to the officers only to make way for a group of eighth graders waiting in line for their turn to enter the library.

"I never thought Lunch With Your Future would become this popular," Officer Harrison said. "By being here, the Arlington Police Department has another opportunity to connect with youth and positively influence the important choices they will make in life. These kids are the future!"



## On Call

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