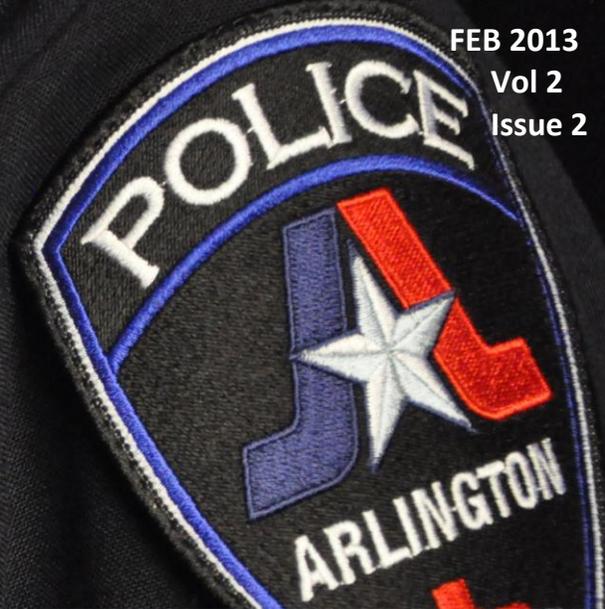


# On Call Inside the Blue



A community news publication of the Arlington Police Department

## The Culture of Service Excellence Continues Arlington Welcomes a New Class of Police Officers



This month, Arlington welcomes 22 new police officers to the city. Family members, friends and supporters gathered Feb. 1 for their academy class graduation.

Following the oath of honor administered by Assistant Chief James Hawthorne, these new recruits are now transitioning into 18 weeks of field training, working alongside veteran officers on city streets.

At the commencement ceremony held at the MetroCenter, Interim Chief Will Johnson challenged each new officer to "serve with fairness and compassion."

The ceremony included Mayor Robert Cluck who told Academy Class 45, "you are the future of our city. Thank you for what you have accomplished."

Others assembled to welcome the new recruits included City Manager Trey Yelverton, Arlington City Council members and a large gathering of community supporters including the Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association, Hispanic Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association, Arlington Clergy and Police Partnership, Citizens On Patrol and many other civic groups. Academy Class #45



Academy Class #45 Valedictorian Officer Buffy Verhagen

Spokesman Officer Billy Cruz thanked those "who helped to train our bodies, our minds and our hearts. We've learned a lot about character," he said.

This new class includes men and women from many parts of the world including Bosnia and Nigeria. They are mothers, fathers, wives, husbands, sons and daughters bringing diversity and many new skill sets to APD.

See more graduation highlights on Facebook and Youtube.

## Safeguarding Public Health and Safety Collaborative Effort Works to Ensure Compliance with Building Codes

The Arlington Police Department, Code Compliance Division and the Arlington Fire Department are working together to ensure the public health and safety of families who reside in an east Arlington



APD secures the area as code inspectors gain entry into units.

complex plagued by dangerous and substandard conditions. LaJoya Apartments located on New York Avenue is home to more than 200 tenants. Past inspections of this property have revealed code violations such as mold, hazardous wiring, unclean premises and insect infestation. Officials have worked with the property to correct the violations.



Inspectors check for working smoke detectors and other unsafe electrical wiring issues.

This re-inspection on Jan. 31 will be followed by a hearing in mid February. Deputy Chief Os Flores said East Arlington Renewal played an integral role in this process, representing the community support that together with city efforts "demonstrate a unified approach to ensuring the public health and safety of everyone."



Reviewing a list of code compliance violations, inspectors make sure conditions have been corrected in every occupied and unoccupied unit.

# On Call in the North District

## Apartment Managers and COP Plan More Ways to Help Youth Succeed

The January meeting of the North District Apartment Managers included a discussion about how the community can become stronger partners for student success and achievement.



City Council member  
Charlie Parker

The meeting on Jan. 8 included Citizens On Patrol members Dara Wandel and Deanna Palla with District 1 City Council member Charlie Parker.

Roquemore Elementary School is located in the Lamar/Collins corridor and the community that surrounds the school understands the importance of a safe environment and a quality education. This community is pulling together to see how they can help improve student attendance at the school, decrease chronic absenteeism and encourage more parental support.

During the meeting, apartment managers talked about how they can support incentive programs such as No Tardy Parties for kids. They are asking area businesses to consider providing gift cards and activities for students and families who show excellent school attendance.

Many of these apartment managers have already set up centers on their properties to assist students with their homework in after school programs.



COP members Dara Wandel and Deanna Palla

Deanna said she received a lot of great input at the meeting. "The more we look, the more solutions we uncover," she said.

The Arlington school district, teachers, staff and parents at Roquemore Elementary are making good progress toward ensuring the academic success for all students and the north district community is here to support these efforts.

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

## Directors are Ready for a New Year with Police Academy Alumni Association

The South District congratulates the 2013 board of directors of the Arlington Citizens' Police Academy Alumni Association! The ACPAAA held its first meeting of the year on Jan. 10. The officers were sworn in by Deputy Police Chief Jeff Matthews. Pat Struble returns as the president and Suzanne Kelly is the vice president. The treasurer is Paul Goodman and the secretary is Brenda Fisher. There are five directors: Tony Amendola, Roger Anderson, John Cerneka, Vikki Barrera and Susan Ernst. Currently, there are about 120 members.

ACPAAA President Pat Struble said a great board has been assembled and everyone is excited about the new year.

One of this group's biggest highlights in 2013 will be the Citizens Police Academy State Conference coming in July to the Arlington Convention Center. The ACPAAA will also host its annual Crafts Fair in August and continue to grow its affiliation with the CPA Alumni Association of North Texas. Watch for more exciting activities in 2013.



**Congratulations to the 2013 ACPAAA Board of Directors!**

Contact me for more information about joining the Citizens Police Academy.



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

## East Foot Patrol Officers Become "Reading Buddies" in the Classroom



At Thornton Elementary School, the Arlington Police Department is participating in a literacy initiative aimed at improving student performance in the classroom.

Officer Stephanie Gillespie along with East Foot Patrol Officers John Henry, Gary Sims, Chad Roberts, and Gary Damien are joining other officers from the East District to read with first and second grade students in English and Spanish.

This Reading Buddies initiative is a new facet of Project REACH (Rejuvenating Arlington, Creating Hope.) The goal is to infuse caring adults into the classroom environment to encourage improvement in reading levels, fluency, and sight word knowledge.

We all know there are many ancillary benefits associated with infusing

positive role models into our schools. In some communities, there is a lack of healthy role models and positive male influences. Sometimes there can be a fear or distrust of authority figures.

At Thornton Elementary, Arlington officers are changing those perceptions. These officers are official AISD volunteers who work with campus leadership, staff, parents and students.

East Foot Patrol officers are also mentors and you can find them helping students enrolled in after school programs inside the East Branch Library.

A special thanks to all officers from the East District who go the extra mile for our youth!



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

## In 2013, Let's Keep the Momentum Going for Citizen Involvement

The West District had a very good year in 2012! There was a reduction in crime and an increased amount of participation in the Citizens On Patrol Mobile program. We saw an increase in the number of new Community Watch Groups formed in our neighborhoods, and we saw countless examples of how the Police Department and the citizens of Arlington are working together to reduce crime.

In 2013, we want to keep that momentum going. There are a number of opportunities for you to get involved.

Here are a few examples:



**Citizens on Patrol Mobile** - The next COP Mobile class begins **Feb. 12**. This class meets every Tuesday night for three hours until March 5. After training, we'll have more volunteers able to be the extra eyes and ears we need to keep neighborhoods safe.

**Citizens Police Academy** - A new academy class starts **Feb. 4** and meets every Monday night. After graduation, these residents will join the Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association.

**Start a Community Watch Group** - It's as easy as contacting a Crime Prevention Officer and scheduling your meeting.

If these activities don't fit into your schedule, there are many volunteer opportunities available through the Citizens Assisting Police program.

In 2013, think about how you would like to get involved. Contact me and I can help you get started.



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).

## Good Police Work Breaks Up Counterfeiting Operation

The APD Economic Crimes Unit has interrupted an elaborate counterfeiting operation and seized hundreds of copies of movies, many of them currently on the big screen in theaters across the country.

It all began when a detective obtained an arrest warrant for a male suspect who was charged with the fraudulent use of identity/credit card abuse. As South District evening shift officers were serving the warrant for his arrest, they identified a DVD counterfeiting operation in plain view inside the home, said Sgt. Steve Williams with the APD Economic Crimes Unit. They froze the scene and immediately notified detectives.

With a search warrant, officers recovered nearly 600 DVD copies of movies, including *Zero Dark Thirty* and *Django*. Arlington officers also recovered two multi-bay DVD burners and a computer, Williams said.

Every year, motion picture studios report economic losses in the billions of dollars.

Williams said the case will now be turned over to the Tarrant County District Attorney's Office for prosecution.



## High School Senior Explores a Different Side of Policing

This Sam Houston High School senior is learning a lot about her city as a 2012-13 Richard Greene Scholar. On Jan. 24, Fitnat Aggrey had a chance to see a different side of policing at APD.

As part of her internship, she didn't participate in a ride-along with officers nor did she tour jail operations as most student interns do. At the main station, this honor student shadowed the APD Media Unit for a behind-the-scenes look at the community engagement side of policing.

She saw firsthand how the department uses social media and traditional media platforms to engage Arlington residents in crime prevention.

In the studio, she learned about projects such as the *Inside APD* news program being produced to highlight the good work that officers do. She observed how news articles are developed to profile community partnerships that come together for safer neighborhoods, and she saw examples of internal communication efforts aimed at ensuring officer safety on the streets.

"I learned things I never knew about police officers," said Fitnat, who is planning to attend either UT-Arlington or TCU this fall and study

pharmacy or nursing.

Since 1987, the Richard Greene Scholar program has been sponsored by the Texas Rangers, City of Arlington and the Arlington Independent School District.



Fitnat Aggrey in the APD Media Unit

## ... In the Community

This month, **Community Conversations** return. Mark your calendar for these upcoming opportunities to join some important community discussions.

**7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 11** – White Stone Fellowship Church, 4701 W. Sublet Rd.

**7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 27** – First Baptist Church, 301 S. Center St.

**7 p.m. Friday, March 8** – Treasure of Excellence Church

Meetings are hosted by (ACAPP) the Arlington Clergy and Police Partnership.

Citizens Police Academy Class #53 is now meeting.

The Woodland West Community Watch Group (East) will meet Feb. 7.

The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Guns 'n Hoses Charity Hockey Game is **Saturday, Feb. 9** at the Dr. Pepper Stars Center in Euless. Admission is #5.

The Homemaker Hills Community Watch Group will meet Monday, **Feb. 11**

New member training opportunity for Citizens on Patrol – The first of four sessions begin **Tuesday, Feb. 12** at the West Police Service Center.

The Waterchase Apartments Community Watch Group meets **Feb. 13**.

**Valentine's Day is Feb. 14.**



**Monday, Feb. 18** is Presidents Day.

The **Community Watch Group Coordinators** will meet Feb. 19.

Orientation for the Arlington Clergy and Police Partnership is 6 p.m. **Thursday, Feb. 21** at North Station.

The Apartment Managers will meet **Feb. 26** at the East Police Service Center.

## On Call

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