

# On Call Inside the Blue



A community news publication of the Arlington Police Department

## State of the Police Department Annual Report to City Council Highlights Crime and Safety

One day after being sworn as the new commander in chief, Arlington Police Chief Will Johnson presented the annual "State of the Arlington Police Department."



The report to the City Council on March 19 showcased public safety progress made in 2012, and unveiled a crime reduction strategy for making Arlington a safer city. The Focus on the Five involves more citizen involvement, a refocus on geographic policing, intelligence gathering, and

multi-year planning combined with effective enforcement designed to change behaviors.

During the March 19 address, Chief Johnson touted the success of citizen-driven initiatives such as National Night Out. In 2012, he said 40 new Community Watch groups organized. Citizens On Patrol members logged more than 7,500 volunteer hours in their neighborhoods.

The State of the Arlington Police Department does more than highlight success, it summarizes crime trends and some of the department's biggest challenges of 2012, including the recovery efforts associated with the tornado that hammered neighborhoods near I-20 and U.S. 287 on April 3, 2012.

In 2012, the department recorded a 21 percent decrease in UCR (Uniform Crime Report) part I crimes as part of a special operation in the South Retail District, Chief Johnson said. Vehicle burglaries dropped 46 percent and theft-related offenses also declined in this area because of a coordinated response involving citizens and businesses working together.

Chief Johnson told city leaders "Arlington is not immune" from cyber crimes, domestic violence, DWI and human trafficking. He said a "spirit of teamwork exists" with school administrators, including private campuses, as everyone works to review crisis response protocols and campus security plans to keep Arlington schools safe.

[Click here to watch the State of the APD presentation.](#)

## ... In the Community



The Arlington Police Department has created a new web page to highlight the Aviation Unit. Visit [www.ArlingtonPD.org](http://www.ArlingtonPD.org) and click on the Aviation Unit link to learn how these small helicopters will be used. You will find questions, answers, videos and a photo gallery.

Thank you! The APD Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon is Friday, April 12.

Get Ready! The Victory Over Violence Walk is Saturday, April 13. [Register here.](#)

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. More at [www.allianhttp://www.allianceforchildren.org/](http://www.allianhttp://www.allianceforchildren.org/)

April 21-27 is National Crime Victims Rights Week. The theme is "New Challenges, New Solutions." More details at [www.ovc.gov](http://www.ovc.gov).

Global Youth Service Day is Saturday, April 27. Hundreds of youth have pledged to make a difference. [www.ArlingtonAlliance4Youth](http://www.ArlingtonAlliance4Youth).

From 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Saturday, April 27, dispose of your prescriptions and over-the-counter drugs at the South, North or East Police Stations or Walgreens, 4400 W. Green Oaks Blvd. in Arlington.

Early Voting begins Monday, April 29, for local city and school elections. [Election Info here.](#)

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

### April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

The National Children's Alliance estimates that nearly five children die every day in America from abuse and neglect.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, a time set aside to highlight the many services available to victims of child abuse.

In Arlington, a Pinwheel Garden will be on display from **April 7-12** on the lawn of the Ott Cribbs Public Safety Building. This garden will feature 323 colorful pinwheels. Each represents the number of sexual abuse cases investigated by APD in 2012, according to Detective Emma Trevino.

Texas law requires anyone having cause to believe that a child's physical, mental health or welfare has been adversely affected by abuse or neglect to report the cause immediately by calling 1-800-252-5400. If the child is believed to be in immediate danger, the public is reminded to call 9-1-1.

# On Call Inside the 2012 Annual Awards Ceremony

## Outstanding Police Work, Partnerships and More Highlight Awards Luncheon

More than 600 people gathered March 7 to honor the outstanding work of Arlington Police Department employees and its community partnerships during the 2013 Police Department Awards Ceremony at Highpoint Church. Lt. James Long was bestowed one of the department's highest honors for service: The Living Legacy Award. He started his career with APD in 1954 as a patrol officer and retired in 1992 as a lieutenant. In 2012, he celebrated 20 years of dedicated volunteer service with the department.



**Lt. Long receives Living Legacy Award**

The Citizen Community Award was presented to Candy Ford, a volunteer who donated 928 hours to the Police Department in 2012. Arlington officers say she takes personal pride in the south police district, patrolling areas and reporting suspicious activity.

During the ceremony, a detective was honored for his work in the fight to stop human trafficking, a rookie officer was recognized for his steadfast commitment to proactive policing, and a sergeant with an unparalleled dedication to child welfare cases especially crimes against children were all bestowed top honors. Awards were also presented to APD professional staff employees. Fox 4 Reporter Brandon Todd, an Arlington resident, served as the celebrity emcee.

### Congratulations!

#### Living Legacy Award

Lt. James Long

#### Officer of the Year

Greg Dickerman

#### Supervisor of the Year

Ricardo Lucero

#### Operations Officer of the Year

David Szatkowski

#### Community Support Officer of the Year

Jason Rash

#### East Officer of the Year

Gary Jones

#### North Officer of the Year

Ashley Daniels

#### South Officer of the Year

Edward Chappell

#### West Officer of the Year

Cody Brewer

#### Detective of the Year

Charles Lodatto

#### Rookie Officer of the Year

Richard Coleman

#### Professional Employee of the Year (Administrative)

Ada Aguilar

#### Professional Employee of the Year (Technical)

Marc Saunders

#### Business Partnership of the Year

Crossway Apartments

#### Citizen Community Award

Candy Ford



**Chief Will Johnson welcomes guests to Awards Ceremony.**



**Chaplain Harold Elliott leads the Pledge of Allegiance.**

# APD Stars and Badges Highlights



Great Food!



Great Fellowship!



Crossway Apartment Community - Winner of the 2012 APD Business Partnership Award



Celebrating with family - West District Officer of the Year



## Thank You!

The APD Annual Awards Program event is made possible by the John V. McMillan family with support from many including the following: Arlington Police Foundation, Arlington Police Association, African American Peace Officers Association of Arlington, Eddie Deen Catering, Cavenders, Arlington Convention Center, Dave & Busters, HighPoint Church, Adams Real Estate, Sheraton Hotel, Spaghetti Warehouse, The Keg and Accent Awards.



APD Juvenile Unit celebrates with the Supervisor of the Year.

Photography by: John Moore

# APD Shows Love for Volunteers

## Appreciation Luncheon is Friday, April 12

Volunteers from many parts of the Arlington Police Department will be recognized April 12 at the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon at the Police South Service Center. The theme is *"We Love Our Volunteers."*

The program will feature special awards, prizes and volunteer highlights.

Sgt. Curtis Petties serves as the Volunteer Administrator of the Citizens Assisting Police program, which was started in 2012 to grow and strengthen volunteer opportunities within APD and the community.

To date, the Citizens Assisting Police program has an active database of more than 200 volunteers serving in many facets of the department, including Alarm Permits, Jail, Victim Services and the Media Unit. They serve in SkyWatch Towers, COP Mobile and wherever they're needed.

APD Volunteer Coordinators manage the database, coordinate training and assign new volunteers. Every Police District and Bureau has an assigned Volunteer Coordinator who serves as a point of contact when volunteers are needed.



April 21-27 is National Volunteer Week!

**APD Volunteer Coordinators** (Left to Right Standing) Mary Dirickson, John Ford, Phil Blanton, Phil Kabakoff and Gary Krishman (Seated Left to Right): Kathi Mulkerin, Ed Ricardez and Nannette Lombard

# When Severe Weather Strikes, Arlington Residents Know What to Do

When severe storms hit two weeks ago, interrupting phone service for thousands of south Arlington residents, the City of Arlington activated its Emergency Operations Center to assist those who were not able to dial 911 from a cell phone or land line.

The EOC served as the central command center for a coordinated response effort involving the Arlington Police Department and Fire Department until phone service was restored.

One year after a tornado hit southwest Arlington on April 3, 2012, the Arlington Police Department remembers that day and all of the efforts that went into recovery and rebuilding. Amongst the fallen debris and shattered structures, there were no serious injuries or fatalities.

Severe weather season is here and preparation remains our best defense!



**When a Tornado Watch or Warning has been issued, watch for:**

- \* A dark, often greenish sky, wall cloud or super cell (a heavy, lowering cloud that is rain-free and rotating)
- \* Large hail
- \* A loud roar similar to a freight train

## Seek Shelter Immediately

**Designate a shelter area in your home or place of business.**

If an underground shelter or basement is not available, move to an interior room or hallway on the lowest floor and get under a sturdy piece of furniture. Stay away from windows.

**Never attempt to outrun a tornado in your vehicle. Seek shelter in a sturdy building.**

If no shelter is available, exit the vehicle and find a low-lying area such as a ditch or ravine. Lay flat on your stomach and cover your head with hands.

**Looking for more severe weather safety tips?**

<http://www.knowwhat2do.com/think/tornado>

## Operation LifeSaver

**Always expect a train at every rail crossing!**

It takes the average freight train travelling at 55 mph more than a mile to stop. This is equivalent to the length of 18 football fields. At railroad tracks, stay alert! Avoid distractions inside your vehicle that could prevent you from hearing or seeing an approaching train.



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