

On Call Inside the Blue



A community news publication of the Arlington Police Department

... In the Community

Congratulations! Citizens Police Academy Class #53 will graduate on **Monday, May 6**, in Council Chamber. You're invited to celebrate the achievements of 30 Arlington residents who have completed the 11-week public safety academy. This class includes 13 adults and 17 high school students. Chief Will Johnson will be the keynote speaker.

Election Day is **Saturday, May 11**. The last day to vote early is **Tuesday, May 7**.

The Arlington Police Officer Memorial Observance is **May 8** at Heroes Park.

Hispanic Citizens Police Academy Class #24 will graduate at **7 p.m. Monday, May 13**.

The All City Community Watch Coordinators will meet **Tuesday, May 21**.

"Take 25" reminds parents and guardians to take 25 minutes to talk with their children about safety. On **May 23**, APD partners with Ashworth Elementary School to launch this initiative. Learn more at www.Take25.org.

Memorial Day is **Monday, May 27**.



Thank You! APD won a **"Largest Team Award"** at the Women's Center Victory Over Violence 5K and 1K Walk/Run on April 13 in Fort Worth. This year, 3,500 runners and walkers helped to raise more than \$117,000 for local anti-violence programs and services. See more photo highlights on the **APD Facebook** page!

Arlington Wins State Award for Traffic Safety

Arlington leads the state in local initiatives that bring traffic safety and education to the forefront.

The Texas Municipal Courts Education Center presented its 2013 Traffic Safety Award to the City of Arlington on April 2 in Austin.

Arlington finished in the top spot for cities with high volume courts serving populations of 150,000 residents or more. El Paso, Houston

and Irving were other large cities making outstanding traffic safety contributions to their communities.

According to the TMCE, more Texans are killed in traffic crashes and alcohol-related crashes than any other state. The Municipal Traffic Safety Initiative was created to bring courts and city governments together in partnership to make traffic safety a local priority so that communities are safer, said the Honorable Teresa Evans, an Associate

Municipal Judge who compiled data for the award.

The Arlington Police Department's bike and motorcycle "Stay Smart" programs were highlighted along with the "Officer on the Bus," which emphasizes the importance of motorists stopping for flashing lights on school buses. The "No Refusal" program was credited for helping to reduce the number of people driving under the influence. In classrooms across the city, officers conducted 126 drug and alcohol awareness

programs in schools. Other Arlington initiatives included safety information on web sites and electronic billboards, technology upgrades in Municipal Court, cameras at busy intersections, seat belt inspection programs and a law that prohibits texting and driving. The award recognizes the efforts of an entire city working together for safer roadways and safer communities.



APD Social Media is Among the Best in the U.S.

The Arlington Police Department has earned a No. 6 national ranking for Police Departments who use social media the best!

MPHProgramList.com evaluated the social media presence of Police Departments in the 100 largest cities in the U.S. to find out which are best prepared to get the word

out quickly via social media. As first responders, police officers are often the first to know about hazards. It is important for Police Departments to know how to communicate information to the public in a timely manner, especially during an emergency, according

to MPHProgramList.com. Arlington PD uses social media to engage, inform and highlight the work of officers. Rankings posted on their website placed Dallas PD at #1 and Fort Worth PD at #25. Connect with APD on Facebook, Twitter, Nixle and YouTube to join our conversation and stay connected and informed!

On Call in the North District

North District Spotlights Two Active Community Watch Groups

This month, the North Police District highlights two active Community Watch Groups: The Park Place Community Watch Group and the Oak Haven Mobile Homes Community Watch Group.

The Park Place Community Watch Group meets quarterly. Coordinator Jan Verrijcke does a good job of passing safety related concerns from his members to the APD Crime Prevention Unit. At a breakfast hosted by these residents, Assistant Chief James Hawthorne spoke to about 20 residents.

Day Shift Beat Officer Shelly Bateman also attended, reminding members about the importance of knowing their neighbors. They answered concerns about student safety and truancy.

Not too far from the Park Place neighborhood, the Oak Haven Mobile Home CWG represents a community of mostly Hispanic families in an area consisting of about 90 homes.

Officer Jose Alvarez attended a recent meeting to talk with neighbors about the importance of calling 911 to report crime. He encouraged them not to fear any immigration pushback. He also explained ways to avoid becoming a victim of property crime.

The Oak Haven CWG was formed in 2011 but became inactive for a short while until new property manager Estella Rodriguez came on board. She helped to get the group active again and reconnected with the Police Department. **Thank you!**



Contact the **Crime Prevention Unit** if you'd like to schedule a public safety presentation for your Community Watch Group.



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.



On Call in the South District

Take Another Look. Does the Inside of Your Vehicle Look Like a Retail Store?

Where can you find a mini laptop, a GPS device, cell phones and high quality headphones all in one place?

The obvious answer is a retail store. Another answer could be inside the vehicle you just parked.

APD crime analysts work to pinpoint crime trends in areas reporting high amounts of vehicle burglaries.

With intelligence information compiled by analysts, Officers then identify ways to catch criminals in the act and make arrests. This was the case last fall when officers working a special operation in the South Police District observed a silver Honda parked near a movie theatre with three occupants. Officers watched as a female occupant exited the vehicle and began peering into the windows of parked vehicles.

When she returned, a second person exited the vehicle and began to approach more unoccupied vehicles. Officers watched as one individual was able to open an unlocked car door and remove a GPS device from the dash board. Officers then moved in quickly to make the arrest. Many more valuable items were in their possession when officers searched the silver Honda.

This summer, these kinds of vehicle burglaries will likely continue if we're not vigilant.

The citizens of Arlington can take action now and avoid becoming a victim of this type of crime. When you park your vehicle, never leave items in plain view.

Do not park in areas with poor public visibility such as alleys and the sides of buildings without windows.

Survey the interior of your vehicle when you park. Remove all items of value, including empty backpacks, duffel bags and brief cases. Criminals don't know if these items are empty.

Lock your vehicle and activate your alarm.

Report suspicious behavior. If you see someone looking into a vehicle, call 9-1-1. If you see the getaway car, note a license plate number and vehicle description.



Watch for new crime prevention highlight every month. Contact Crime Prevention Specialist Curtice Ervin at 817-459-5732 or Curtice.Ervin@Arlingtontx.gov for more information.

On Call in the East District

Community Watch Coordinators Meet and Plan Ways to Re-invigorate

The East District recently hosted a Meet and Greet for Community Watch Coordinators. It was an opportunity to bring coordinators together and talk about ways to re-invigorate their volunteer groups.

It was also a chance for residents to become more familiar with the Community Watch program and the many benefits that can come from having an active program in their neighborhood.

Over the past few months, a lot of change has occurred within APD and this Meet and Greet

on March 5 provided an opportunity for neighbors to get re-acquainted with their East District Deputy Chief, Lieutenants, Sergeants, and Code Enforcement personnel.

We heard some great success stories from Community Watch Group Coordinators and Citizens On Patrol members. Our hope is that more residents will want to get involved. We need them to report suspicious activity when they see it.

The East District wants to thank the members of the Hispanic Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association who welcomed everyone and provided great support! We also thank all of our coordinators and CWG members.

If you're interested in learning how to start a Community Watch Group, contact me about getting started.



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.



On Call in the West District

Public Event on May 8 Will Honor Officers Who Made the Ultimate Sacrifice



Peace Officers Memorial Day is an observance in the U.S. that pays tribute to local, state, and federal peace officers who lost their lives in the line of duty. The day was created in 1961 when Congress asked the president to designate May 15 to honor peace officers. On Oct. 1, 1962, John F. Kennedy signed the bill into law.

On Wednesday, May 8, the Arlington community is invited to attend a Police Officer Memorial Day observance at Heroes Park. The public memorial will begin at 6 p.m. and feature the award-winning APD Honor Guard. The program will also include the presentation of colors, a moment of silence, a 21-gun salute and

the playing of Taps.

During our more than 100-year history, eight Arlington Police Officers have died in the line of duty. Their service and sacrifice will never be forgotten.

Take a few minutes out of your evening on May 8 and join us. Invite your family and friends. Let's show our community support to the family members of fallen officers, who will also be in attendance for this special occasion. Heroes Park is located adjacent to the West Police Station at 1200 West Green Oaks Boulevard. Dedicated in 2008, Heroes Park continues to be a lasting tribute to those who paid the ultimate sacrifice in service.

Police Officer Memorial Day Observance

**6 p.m.
Wednesday,
May 8, 2013**

Heroes Park



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.

Officers Inspire Success at the Opening Ceremonies for Special Olympics

Arlington Police Officers were front and center as hundreds of athletes, cheering fans and supporters poured into UT Arlington's Maverick Stadium on Friday, April 19, for the Special Olympic Texas Opening Ceremonies.

Officer Gus Klinkenberg and Officer Angela Bell served as the honorary emcees for an evening of awards and entertainment, including a White Balloon Release Memorial and Olympic Torch Run. Officer Klinkenberg is also a Global Ambassador for Special Olympics.

"There's no greater feeling than to see the pride and excitement of athletes who are being empowered through sports to be their very best," Klinkenberg said.

See more Opening Ceremony photo highlights on APD Facebook or visit <http://www.sotx.org> to learn more.



It's a New Day in this Arlington Apartment Home Community



Apartment Manager Antonio Hernandez with Lt. Mike Holguin, Sgt. Jay Robinson and Crime Prevention Officer Kimberly Fretwell.

"... You are doing more than putting paint on the wall. What you're doing is great and it could become contagious!"

**Assistant Chief Jaime Ayala
Field Operations Bureau**

"Another great example that demonstrates what we can do as a team working together."

**Assistant Chief James Hawthorne
Community Support Bureau**

Crime is trending down in a north Arlington sector thanks to a coordinated response effort involving apartment management, tenants, officers and citizen volunteers.

The Forest Hills Apartment Community located north of Interstate 30 became Whispering Woods when it was sold to new management in 2012.

According to data compiled by Crime Analysts, property crime, drug and gang activity had been trending up in this community of nearly 1,800 apartment units. Tenants had safety concerns and some were hesitant to call police. Adjacent neighborhoods, parks and businesses were also being impacted.

According to a presentation at an APD Managers Meeting, the apartment complex was driving criminal activity in Sector K, Beat 240.

With crime data and intelligence gathering, officers determined that gang members and violent offenders lived on the property. Some were not on a lease, but stayed occasionally with apartment lease holders.

A unified response involved many force multipliers, including Bike Patrol, Gang and Auto Theft units along with Code Enforcement and the Arlington Housing Authority, said Lt. Mike Holguin.

The Crime Prevention Unit began meeting with new management to plan Community Watch meetings and mobilize more Citizens On Patrol. Some of the employees now reside on the property, offering tenants incentives for getting involved in preventing crime. Neighbors are noticing fresh paint, lighting and landscaping improvements as well.

"During a one-year period, we saw a 60 percent decrease in apartment burglaries and a 44 percent drop in theft," Sgt. Jay Robinson told managers.

The community is thankful!
"Thank you for the help,"

Property Manager Antonio Hernandez told officers. "It's a new day and we're confident everything can only get better."

On Call

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Send story ideas and comments to: Editor Cheryl Carpenter

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www.ArlingtonPD.org

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